VISIT…

KIDS!

PICTURE YOURSELF

Knitting

maranGraphics Inc.

KIDS! PICTURE YOURSELF Knitting

maranGraphics Inc.

Course Technology PTR
A part of Cengage Learning

COURSE TECHNOLOGY
CENGAGE Learning™

Australia • Brazil • Japan • Korea • Mexico • Singapore • Spain • United Kingdom • United States

COURSE TECHNOLOGY
CENGAGE Learning™

Kids! Picture Yourself Knitting

maranGraphics Inc.

Publisher and General Manager, Course Technology PTR: Stacy L. Hiquet

Associate Director of Marketing: Sarah Panella

Manager of Editorial Services: Heather Talbot

Marketing Manager: Jordan Casey

Acquisitions Editor: Megan Belanger

Design Consultant: Joanne Yordanou

Development Editor: Heather Kaufman Urschel

Project Editor: Sandy Doell

Technical Reviewer: Heather Kaufman Urschel

Kid Reviewer: Sophie Urschel

PTR Editorial Services Coordinator: Judith Littlefield

Interior Layout: Jill Flores

Cover Designer: Mike Tanamachi

Indexer: Katherine Stimson

Proofreader: Sandi Wilson

© 2009 maranGraphics Inc.

ALL RIGHTS RESERVED. No part of this work covered by the copyright herein may be reproduced, transmitted, stored, or used in any form or by any means graphic, electronic, or mechanical, including but not limited to photocopying, recording, scanning, digitizing, taping, Web distribution, information networks, or information storage and retrieval systems, except as permitted under Section 107 or 108 of the 1976 United States Copyright Act, without the prior written permission of the publisher.

For product information and technology assistance, contact us at
Cengage Learning Customer & Sales Support, 1-800-354-9706

For permission to use material from this text or product, submit all requests online at **cengage.com/permissions**

Further permissions questions can be emailed to **permissionrequest@cengage.com**

All trademarks are the property of their respective owners.

Library of Congress Control Number: 2008902389

ISBN-13: 978-1-59863-523-2

ISBN-10: 1-59863-523-9

eISBN-10: 1-59863-700-2

Course Technology
25 Thomson Place
Boston, MA 02210
USA

Cengage Learning is a leading provider of customized learning solutions office locations around the globe, including Singapore, the United Kingdom, Australia, Mexico, Brazil, and Japan. Locate your local office at: **international.cengage.com/region**

Cengage Learning products are represented in Canada by Nelson Education, Ltd.

For your lifelong learning solutions, visit **courseptr.com**

Visit our corporate website at **cengage.com**

Printed in the United States of America
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 11 10 09

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

maranGraphics Inc. is a family-run business based in Ontario, Canada.

For over 30 years, the Maran family has produced friendly and easy-to-use visual learning books.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Chapter 1
Tools of the Trade 2

All About Yarn 3
- Spinning and Ply 4
- What's It Made Of? 4

In the Thick of It: Yarn Weights 11
- Fingering Weight 11
- Sport Weight 11
- Knitting Worsted Weight 11
- Bulky Weight 11
- Extra-Bulky Weight 11

Choosing and Buying Yarn 12
- Where to Buy Yarn 12
- Substituting Yarn 13

Decoding the Yarn Label 14

Caring for Your Knitted Projects 15

What's the Point: All About Needles 17
- Knitting Needle Sizes 18
- Types of Knitting Needles 19

Handy Tools and Timesavers 20
- Scissors 20
- Tape Measure 20
- Stitch Holders 20
- Needle Gauge 20
- Safety Pins 21
- Stitch Markers 21
- Crochet Hook 21
- Row Counter 21
- Point Protectors 22
- Project Bag 22
- Tapestry Needles 22
- Straight Pins 22

Knitting and the Internet 23

Chapter 2
Let's Get This Party Started 24

Knitspeak: Knitting Terms You Need to Know 25
- Stitches and Rows 25
- Tail of Yarn 25
- Right Side and Wrong Side of Fabric 26
- How to Insert the Needle 27

How to Hold Your Yarn and Needles 28
- English Style 29
- Continental Style 30

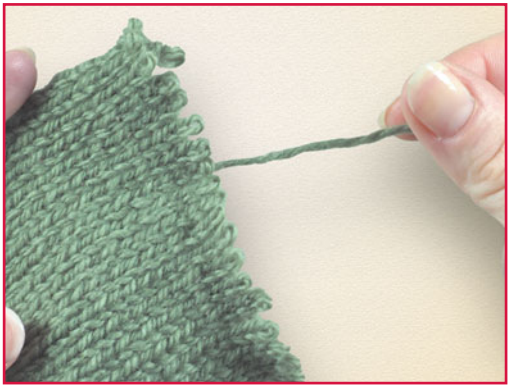
Make a Slip Knot 31

We've Only Just Begun: Casting On 32
The Knit Stitch 34
English Style 34
Continental Style 36
The Purl Stitch 38
English Style 38
Continental Style 40
Creating Basic Patterns with Your Knits and Purls 42
Garter Stitch 42
Stockinette Stitch 43
Still More Patterns Using Knits and Purls 44
Seed Stitch 44
Double Seed Stitch 44
Moss Stitch 44
Simple Seed Stitch 45
Basketweave 45
Make Ribbing—But Hold the Sauce 46
Knit 1 Purl 1 Rib 48
Mistake Stitch Rib 48
Broken 2 × 2 Rib 48
Knit 2 Purl 5 Rib 48
Keeping the Ball Rolling: Starting a New Ball of Yarn 49
This Is the End: Binding Off 50
The Gauge Page 52
Make and Measure a Gauge Swatch 52
Purls of Wisdom: How to Read a Knitting Pattern 54
Size 54
Materials 54
Gauge 54
Stitch Glossary 54
Abbreviations 55
Common Knitting Symbols 55
Schematics 55
Read a Knitting Chart 56
How to Read a Chart 56
Colors in Charts 56
Shaping in Charts 57
Common Chart Symbols 57

Chapter 3
Getting Fancy: Advanced Skills 58

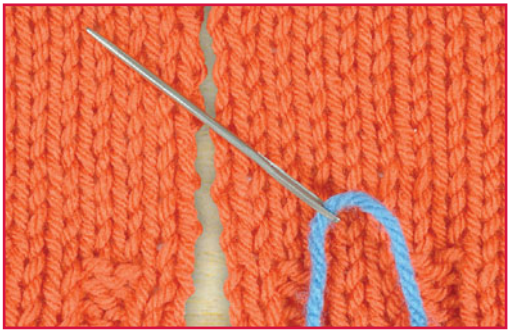
Expanding Your World: Increasing By One Stitch 59
Make a Bar Increase 59
Make a Yarn Over 61
Let's Narrow Things Down: Decreasing One Stitch 63
Knit Two Stitches Together 63
Knit Two Stitches Together Through Back Loop 64
Slip Slip Knit 65
Slip One, Knit One, Pass Slipped Stitch Over 66
Giving Your Knitwear the Slip: Slipping a Stitch 67
Slip a Stitch Purlwise 67
Slip a Stitch Knitwise 67
Make a Buttonhole 68
Flourishes and Final Touches 70
Make a Fringe 70
Make a Tassel 72
Make a Pompom 74

Chapter 4
Fixing Your Mistakes 76



Pick Up a Dropped Stitch in the Row Below 77
Pick Up a Dropped Stitch Several Rows Below . .79
Demolition Derby—Knitting Style 81
Stitch by Stitch 81
Ripping Out Stitches Row by Row 82

Chapter 5
Putting It All Together: Finishing Your Knitted Projects 84



Block Knitted Pieces 85
Wet Blocking 86
Steam Blocking 88
Sew Knitted Pieces Together 90
Using the Mattress Stitch 90
Using the Backstitch 93
Using the Whip Stitch 96
Weave in Yarn Ends 98
Weaving Yarn Ends into the Sides 98
Weaving Yarn Ends Across Your Work 99

The Projects

Project 1
Kid's Ribby Scarf and Hat 102

Project 2
Cotton Candy Scarf 84

Project 3
Checkered Cloth 108

Project 4
Striped Hat 110

Project 5
Little Sweetheart Purse . .114

Project 6
Decorative Pillow 118

Project 7
Cell Phone Cozy 122

Glossary 126
Common Abbreviations . .130
Index 131

CHAPTER 1

© Mark Urschel 2009

Knitting is an activity that is easy to learn and requires very few tools to practice. You can create a vast array of knitted items with just a ball of yarn and two needles. Your knitted projects can range from decorative items, such as a pillow or blanket, to more practical items, such as a scarf, sweater, or hat.

Tools of the Trade

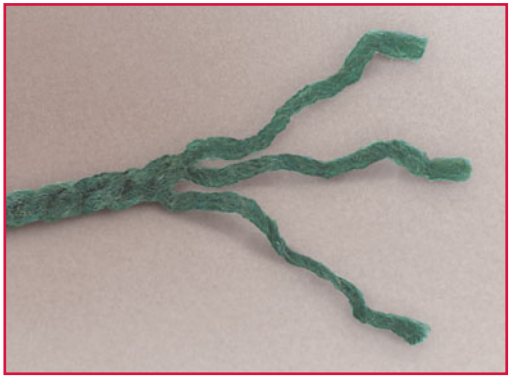
All About Yarn

Yarn is commonly packaged in balls, skeins, or hanks. Balls are made up of yarn wound into a round shape, while skeins are made up of yarn wound into an oblong shape. It is best to use yarn that has been packaged as a center-pull ball or skein, which means that you can pull the yarn from the center of one end of the ball or skein as you work. This makes the ball or skein less likely to bounce or roll away from you. Balls and skeins are available in various sizes.

Hanks are loosely, but neatly, twisted coils of yarn. Before using a hank, the yarn must be wound into balls. You can have the yarn wound into balls at the store where you purchased the yarn or you can wind the yarn yourself.

Spinning and Ply

Yarn is made by spinning fibers together to form a single strand of yarn. Twisting two or more strands together forms what is called a plied yarn. For example, twisting two strands together forms a two-ply yarn, while twisting three strands together forms a three-ply yarn. Plied yarn is stronger, smoother, and has a more uniform appearance than a single strand of yarn, but is not necessarily thicker.



What's It Made of?

The type of fiber that a yarn is made of will impact all kinds of behaviors of that yarn: how stretchy (or elastic) it is, how warm (or insulating) it is, how hard or easy it is to wash, and even how easy or difficult the yarn will be to actually knit with. Understanding these "behaviors" of different fibers will help you choose which yarn to use for your knitting projects.

Yarn can be made from natural or synthetic fibers. There are two types of natural fibers: plant fibers and animal fibers. Plant fibers are made from plants, such as cotton and hemp plants. Animal fibers are derived from animals such as sheep and rabbits. Synthetic fibers are produced from chemical sources.

Plant Fibers

Plant fibers are made from cellulose, which is the main component of plant tissue. Plant fibers produce garments that are durable, breathable, and absorb moisture extremely well. Plant fibers are also hypo-allergenic, which makes them an excellent choice for people who are allergic to animal fibers such as wool.

When choosing yarn for a project, you should keep in mind that yarn produced from plant fibers does not provide as much insulation as yarn derived from animal fibers.

Cotton

Cotton is a very absorbent and quick-drying fiber, which makes cotton garments comfortable to wear in hot weather. Since cotton is stronger wet than dry, no special care is required when washing it. This makes cotton an ideal fiber for knitting items that are frequently washed, such as dish cloths and baby items.

Compared to wool, cotton is a more difficult fiber to work with; it is not as elastic and shows imperfections in your knitting more easily.

The highest-quality and most expensive types of cotton include Egyptian, Sea Island, and Pima. Egyptian cotton is known for its soft, luxurious texture. Sea Island cotton is prized for its silky feel and lustrous appearance. Pima cotton is valued for its strength.

Linen

Linen is made from the fibers of the flax plant. Like cotton, linen garments are durable, easy to care for, and comfortable to wear in hot weather. Because linen fabric tends to be stiff and wrinkles easily, linen fiber is often blended with cotton to add softness. Linen is commonly used for knitting garments such as lightweight sweaters and cardigans.

Hemp

Hemp is derived from the hemp plant. Hemp yarn is increasing in popularity among knitters and is often used to make tops, tunics, and other clothing items. Hemp can also be used to knit decorative items.

Animal Fibers

Animal fibers are protein-based and come from the coat of animals such as sheep, goats, and rabbits. Animal fibers provide good insulation, which helps keep you warm in cold weather and cool in warm weather. Animal fibers are also soft, lightweight, absorbent, and stretch resistant.

Animal fibers are vulnerable to moth larvae, as the larvae eat the protein-based fiber. They can also create a rougher, more scratchy feeling fabric, so if you're choosing fabric for, say, a baby hat or scarf for a friend, rub the ball of yarn on your face to get an idea of how it will feel in the finished product.

Wool

Wool is spun from fleece that has been sheared from sheep and is the most popular yarn choice for knitters. Wool is warm, durable, elastic, and resists wrinkling. Wool is also very absorbent, which makes it dye-friendly.

There are several different types of wool available, with each type having its own special properties. For example, Merino wool from the Merino sheep is very fine and soft, while Pure New wool is rougher but is more water resistant due to increased amounts of lanolin.

Wool is often used for knitting items such as sweaters, hats, mittens, and scarves. Wool garments may not be suitable for people who have allergies or sensitive skin.

Alpaca

Alpaca fiber comes from the coat of a llama-like animal of the same name that lives in South America. Alpaca yarn is soft, silky, lightweight, and very warm. Because the natural color of alpaca ranges from beige to brown, alpaca fibers must be bleached before being dyed another color. Often you can find un-dyed, un-bleached yarn, though, in many beautiful shades of browns and grays. Alpaca is not as expensive as cashmere, but it is more costly than wool. Alpaca is commonly used to knit sweaters, scarves, and gloves.

Angora

Angora, which is derived from the fur of the Angora rabbit, is soft, delicate, warm, and downy, but it tends to shed. Angora is expensive, so it is often blended with other fibers to lower the cost and increase the strength of the resulting yarn. Angora is commonly used for knitting items such as hats and sweaters.

Cashmere

Cashmere, which is made from the hair of the Cashmere goat, is one of the softest and most luxurious yarns available. Like wool, cashmere dyes easily and makes a resilient fabric that resists stretching and wrinkling. Cashmere is very expensive, so it is often blended with wool to create a stronger yarn at a lower price. Cashmere is often used to knit sweaters and accessory items, such as scarves.

Silk

Silk yarn is produced from silkworm cocoons that have been unraveled to form long, lustrous fibers. Silk garments have a wonderful drape and feel. Silk is strong, but not very resilient.

As a result, silk garments tend to stretch with wear. Because silk is expensive, it is often blended with other fibers to lower the cost. Due to the special care required to clean silk, knitters often use silk just for special projects.

©iStockphoto.com/Stephen Coburn

FUN FACT

Historical evidence, such as an Egyptian sock dated between 1200 and 1500 AD and 15th century European paintings that depict knitting, shows that knitting is a long-standing tradition that dates back thousands of years. It is believed that the craft of knitting was spread around the world by early traders and sailors during their travels.

Man-Made Fibers

Man-made fibers are derived from chemical sources and are usually inexpensive. Yarn produced from man-made fibers is generally easy to care for, which makes it ideal for knitting items that are frequently washed, such as blankets, afghans, and sweaters. You should be careful when ironing an item made from man-made fiber, as these types of fibers can lose their shape and even melt if too much heat is applied.

Man-made fibers do not offer the warmth, absorbency, or elasticity of natural fibers. Man-made fibers are often blended with natural fibers to obtain some of these properties and produce a higher-quality yarn.

Nylon

Nylon, or polyamide, is the strongest man-made fiber and is often added to other fibers to provide durability and prevent pilling. When blended with other fibers, nylon is useful for knitting frequently used items, such as mittens. Fabrics made predominantly from nylon do not breathe well and are prone to static cling, but are water resistant.

Acrylic

Yarn made from acrylic is lightweight and strong. Although acrylic lacks insulating properties and tends to pill (pilling is the formation of little balls of fiber on the surface of the garment), this fiber remains very popular with knitters because of its low price, availability, and washability. When blended with wool, acrylic is more enjoyable to work with and wear. Acrylic is used for knitting sweaters, hats, mittens, blankets, and many other items.

Metallic Fibers

Metallic fibers incorporate small amounts of metal to create yarn that sparkles and glitters. Metallic fibers are not very strong and so they are usually blended with other fibers to increase their strength. Metallic fibers are increasing in popularity and are commonly used to knit evening wear and holiday items.

Novelty Yarns

Novelty yarn has an interesting texture and appearance, making it fun to use but often more difficult work with. You can use novelty yarn to knit many items, including scarves, purses, and cuffs or collars for sweaters. Novelty yarn can be made from natural, man-made, or blended fibers and is often produced by twisting different yarns together or twisting multiple strands of the same yarn together at different tensions. Popular examples of novelty yarn include bouclé, chenille, and eyelash.

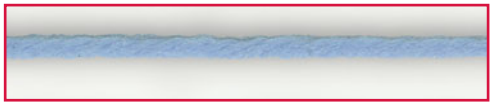
In the Thick of It: Yarn Weights

Yarn is categorized by weight, which is simply the thickness of the yarn. The weight of the yarn you use affects the appearance of the item you knit as well as how long the project will take to complete. For example, a thicker yarn not only produces a warmer, bulkier item, but it also knits quicker than a thinner yarn because it requires fewer stitches to make the same size piece of fabric.

Determining a yarn weight can be confusing because different manufacturers and different countries use their own names for each weight.

Here are some of the most common weights (from thinnest to thickest). For the purposes of illustration, the yarn weights pictured below are displayed in proportion to each other, but are not actual size.

Fingering Weight



Fingering weight, also known as baby weight, is a fine yarn that is ideal for knitting baby garments and socks.

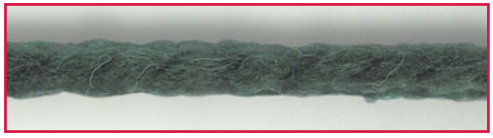
Sport Weight

Sport weight is a light yarn suitable for knitting non-bulky items such as gloves, mittens, and light sweaters.

Knitting Worsted Weight

Knitting worsted weight (also called worsted weight and Aran weight) is the most common yarn weight. Not only is it easy for beginners to work with, but its medium-to-heavy weight makes it perfect for knitting garments, accessories, and afghans.

Bulky Weight



Bulky weight (also called chunky weight), as its name implies, is a thick yarn that is growing in popularity. You can use bulky weight yarn and larger needles to knit blankets and scarves quickly.

Extra-Bulky Weight

Extra-bulky weight (also called super-bulky, very bulky, and gigantic) is the thickest yarn of all. Like bulky weight, its heavy weight makes it easy to knit blankets, coats, and hats very quickly.

Choosing and Buying Yarn

When buying yarn, there are several things you should consider. First, *you should purchase the best yarn you can afford.* Higher quality yarn is not only nicer to work with, but you will appreciate the look and feel of better quality yarn when your project is complete. You should also make sure the yarn you choose will be comfortable to wear. For example, if you are knitting a wool scarf, hold the yarn to your neck to see how it feels.

Manufacturers dye yarn in batches called *lots*, with each lot assigned a specific number. Even though they use the same dyes in each lot to achieve a specific color, yarns of the same color but dyed in different lots will not necessarily look the same; there will be subtle (and sometimes not so subtle) variations in the color of the yarn. Always check the dye lot number on each package of yarn you buy for a project to make sure they are all the same. You should also make sure to buy enough of the yarn that you will use for a specific project. It is a sad knitter's day when you realize you need one more ball of yarn and you go back to the store to find that they are out of your matching lot number.

Lastly, your pattern may provide instructions for knitting the project in several different sizes. Before going to the store, decide which size you are going to knit. The size you choose will determine how much yarn you need to purchase.

Where to Buy Yarn

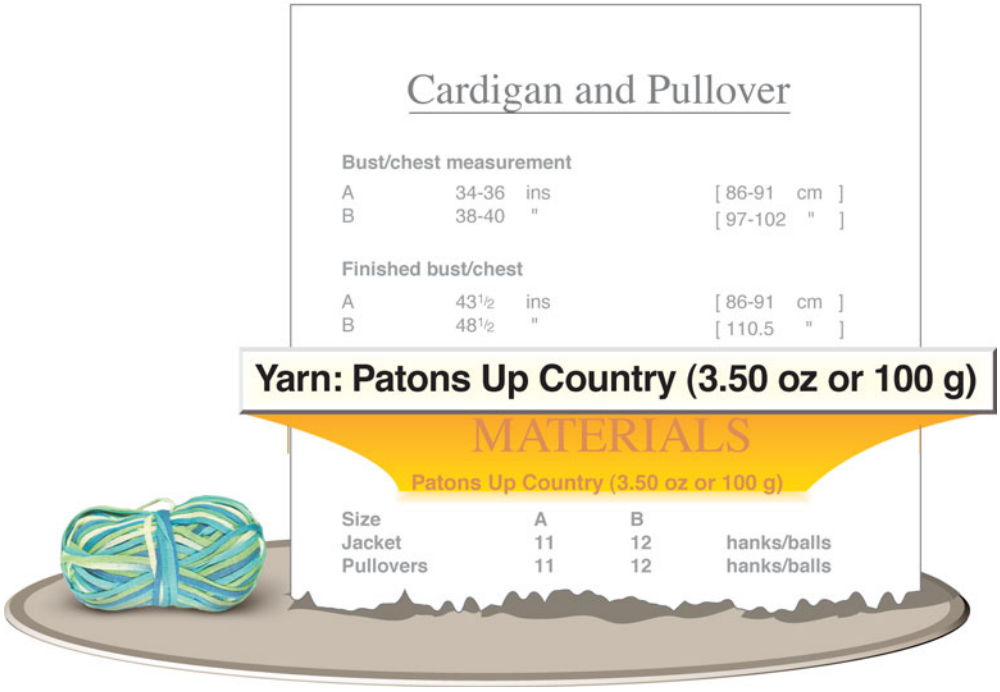
You can purchase yarn from several types of stores. Craft stores offer middle of the road yarns. Specialty yarn shops and boutiques carry a wider variety of yarns, including high-end, fancy, and novelty yarns. Specialty shops often have experienced staff that can offer advice and help you choose yarn (and may even give you free help and advice if you get stuck on a project if you buy from them). What's more, specialty shops (and even some craft stores, for that matter) offer knitting lessons, as well.

You can even buy yarn on the Internet, such as on eBay or online stores. When shopping on the Internet, you should buy yarn you are familiar with so that you are not disappointed by the texture or color when the yarn arrives.

Substituting Yarn

A pattern will suggest the yarn you should use for your knitting project, but you can replace the yarn depending on the yarn's cost, availability, or simply your own preference. If you decide to use another yarn, look for a yarn with the same weight, length, and recommended needle size as the suggested yarn. You can also compare the recommended gauge on the package to the one called for in your pattern to get a better idea if it will work. (See Chapter 2, "Let's Get This Party Started," to learn all about gauge.) And when in doubt, ask a salesperson for help.

Remember that choosing a different fiber type or color than the pattern suggests will affect the feel and look of the garment you are knitting.



Decoding the Yarn Label

When purchasing yarn, you should carefully read the label wrapped around the ball of yarn. The label will tell you all kinds of important information and can help you determine whether the yarn is suitable for your project. You may find the following information on a yarn label.

- **Manufacturer's Name and Address.** The name and address of the yarn manufacturer.
- **Brand Name.** The manufacturer's name for the line of yarn.
- **Fiber Content.** The fiber the yarn is made of, for example, 100% Acrylic.
- **Ply.** The number of strands that have been twisted together to make up the yarn.
- **Yarn Thickness.** The thickness classification of the yarn, also called yarn weight. For example, worsted weight yarn is of medium thickness and is perfect for knitting clothing and blankets.
- **Weight.** Refers to how much the package of yarn actually weighs. Common weights include 1.75 ounces (50 g) and 3.5 ounces (100 g).
- **Yarn Length.** The total length of the yarn in the ball measured in yards or meters. Some fibers are heavier than others, so focus on yarn length (not weight) to determine how much yarn the ball contains.
- **Suggested Needle Size and Gauge.** The recommended needle size to use with the yarn. (Gauge refers to the number of stitches and rows you should have when you knit a square of fabric with the suggested needle size.)
- **Care Instructions.** Words or symbols that indicate how to care for the fabric.
- **Special Processing.** The special treatments the yarn has been subjected to, such as Colorfast (prevents colors from fading or running) and Superwash (allows wool to be machine washed and dried without shrinkage).
- **Color Name and Number.** The name and/or number of the yarn color.
- **Dye Lot Number.** The specific lot number of that ball of yarn. When you buy a specific color of yarn, the color may vary slightly between different dye lots. To ensure the color remains consistent in your project, always buy the yarn from the same dye lot number. To prevent running out, it is a good idea to buy a little more than you think you will need.

Caring for Your Knitted Projects

Your knitwear projects take a lot of time and money to create, so you want to make sure that you wash them the right way. Handmade knitwear is more likely to shrink than store-bought knitwear. To help preserve your knitted items, pay close attention to the care symbols found on the yarn labels and follow the recommended cleaning instructions carefully. Depending on the type of yarn used, the garment will need to be either washed or dry cleaned. See the following chart for a list of common care symbols.

> It is a good idea to save at least one of the labels from each type of yarn you use, at least for a little while after you complete your project. You'll need the information on the label to know how to best care for your knitted treasures. In fact, some knitters like to keep journals about their projects, and will paste the label information in their journal. It is also a great way to remember that awesome yarn you like so much—or that one you never want to use again!

When you hand-wash knitwear, use a gentle detergent and never let the garment soak in the water for an extended period of time. You should squeeze the garment to remove dirt and then empty the water from the wash basin. Rinse the knitwear one or two times, carefully removing as much water as possible. After taking the garment out of the wash basin, position it on a colorfast towel and loosely roll up the towel to soak up even more water. You can then reshape the garment to its proper dimensions and let it air dry.

When you use a washing machine to clean knitwear, make sure to use the correct water temperature. To help keep your knitted garments looking great, you should machine wash knitwear by itself to avoid pilling. You can also try washing the garment in a pillowcase to keep it from stretching out. To prevent creasing and wrinkling, you should remove the garment from the washing machine as soon as the cycle is finished.

© Mark Urschel 2009

Symbol	Means This
	Do not wash
	Hand wash
	Machine wash at displayed temperature
	Machine wash, cold water
	Machine wash, warm water
	Machine wash, hot water
	Machine wash, cold water, gentle cycle
	Machine wash, warm water, gentle cycle
	Machine wash, hot water, gentle cycle
	Do not use chlorine bleach
	Chlorine bleach can be used
	Non-chlorine bleach can be used
	Dry flat
	Do not tumble dry

Symbol	Means This
	Tumble dry, no heat
	Tumble dry, low heat
	Tumble dry, medium heat
	Tumble dry, high heat
	Tumble dry, no heat, gentle cycle
	Tumble dry, low heat, gentle cycle
	Tumble dry, medium heat, gentle cycle
	Do not press
	Do not press with steam
	Press with a cool iron
	Press with a warm iron
	Press with a hot iron
	Do not dry clean
	Dry clean

What's the Point: All About Needles

© Mark Urschel 2009

Needles are an essential part of your knitting toolkit, so you should choose your needles with care. In general, the needles you select should enable you to knit with speed and comfort.

Needles are available in various materials, including aluminum, plastic, wood, and bamboo.

Aluminum needles are widely used because they are inexpensive, as well as smooth and light, which helps you knit faster.

Plastic needles are also commonly used. They are similar to aluminum in smoothness, but are lighter and quieter than aluminum. Larger needles are often made of plastic to make them light enough to work with.

Bamboo and wooden needles are becoming popular choices. Wooden needles are often made of birch, ebony, or rosewood, and are usually expensive. Both wood and bamboo needles are lightweight, with a polished surface. Beginners may find bamboo needles easier to work with, because the surface of the needle is not as slippery as aluminum, allowing the stitches to remain in place better and not slide off the needle. However, after repeated use, bamboo needles tend to split at the tips and get caught on the yarn.

Knitting Needle Sizes

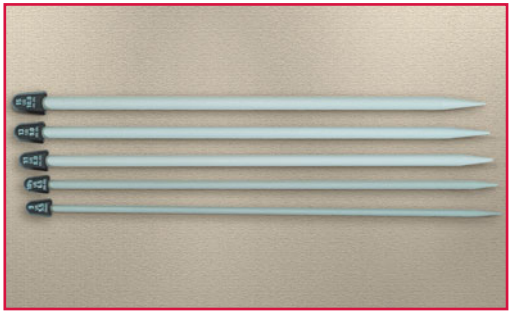
The diameter of a knitting needle determines its size. Needle sizes are usually shown in US, metric, or UK measurements.

You usually choose your needle size based on the needle size suggested on the pattern.

US	Metric	UK
0	2 mm	14
1	2 1/4 mm	13
	2 1/2 mm	
2	2 3/4 mm	12
	3 mm	
3	3 1/4 mm	10
4	3 1/2 mm	
5	3 3/4 mm	9
	4 mm	8
6		
7	4 1/2 mm	7
8	5 mm	6

US	Metric	UK
9	5 1/2 mm	5
10	6 mm	4
10 1/2	6 1/2 mm	3
	7 mm	2
	7 1/2 mm	1
11	8 mm	0
13	9 mm	00
15	10 mm	000
17	12 mm	
19	15 mm	
35	19 mm	
36	20 mm	

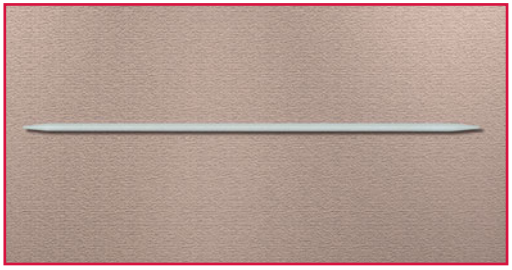
Single-Pointed Knitting Needles



This is the type of knitting needle that is familiar to most people. Single-pointed needles are straight with a point at one end for knitting and a knob at the other end to keep the stitches from falling off the needle. These needles are ideal for flat knitting, which involves working on the right side of the fabric, and then turning the work over and knitting on the wrong side.

Single-pointed needles are sold in pairs and are available in a variety of lengths. The most common lengths are 10 inches (25cm) and 14 inches (36cm).

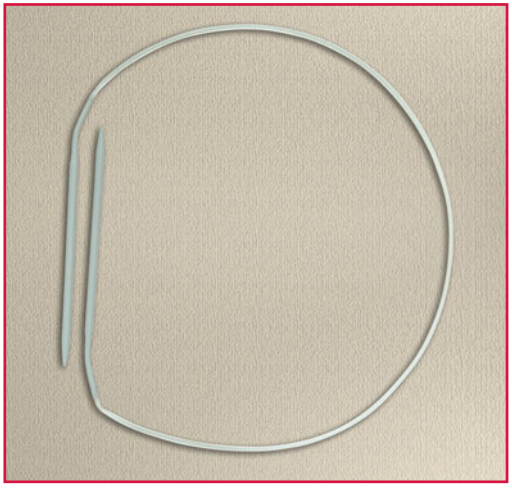
Double-Pointed Knitting Needles



Double-pointed needles are straight needles that have a working point at each end and are useful for knitting small, seamless, tubular items, such as socks. Knitting that involves circular objects is referred to as knitting "in the round."

Double-pointed needles are usually available in shorter lengths than single-pointed needles, such as 7-inch (18cm) and 10-inch (25cm) lengths. They are often sold in sets of 4 or 5.

Circular Knitting Needles



Circular knitting needles consist of a pair of short, straight needles attached by a flexible plastic or nylon cord. Not only are these needles excellent for knitting large tubular items, such as sweaters, but they are also useful for knitting large flat items such as an afghan. When knitting large, heavy pieces, circular needles allow you to hold a large number of stitches on your needle and to balance the bulk of the material on your lap rather than on the needles.

Circular needles are commonly available in 16, 24, 29, and 36 inch (40, 60, 80 and 90cm) lengths.

Handy Tools and Timesavers

There are several additional items you should have on hand while knitting. You can find the following inexpensive tools at most craft and knitting stores.

Scissors

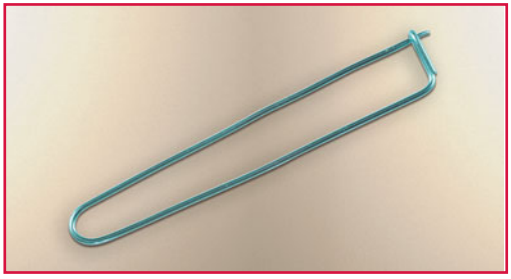
Knitting patterns may direct you to "break" yarn, which simply means to cut it. To cut yarn, use small, sharp scissors, preferably ones that you can fold up or put in a case to avoid damaging your project when you put it away.

Tape Measure

You use a tape measure to determine the measurements of various parts of your project, such as the sleeve length of a sweater you are knitting or length of a scarf. (You also will use it to take your own measurements to figure out which size of garment you need to make.) A good tape measure is flexible, but it should not stretch.

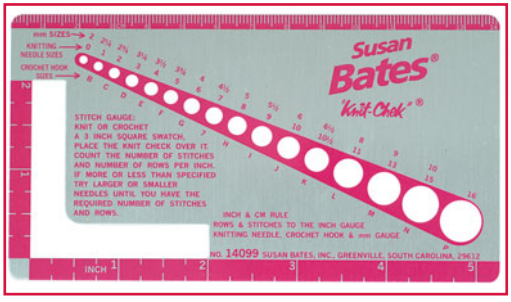
Stitch Holders

Use stitch holders to temporarily hold stitches you are not working with to prevent them from unraveling. They are available in varying sizes, but the smaller sizes are used most often.



Needle Gauge

Needle gauges make it easy to determine the size of needles that are not labeled. Simply slide your needle into each hole, starting with the smallest. The size corresponding to the first hole your needle passes through is your needle size. Needle gauges also commonly feature a stitch gauge, which is an L-shaped window you use to count the number of stitches and rows.



Safety Pins

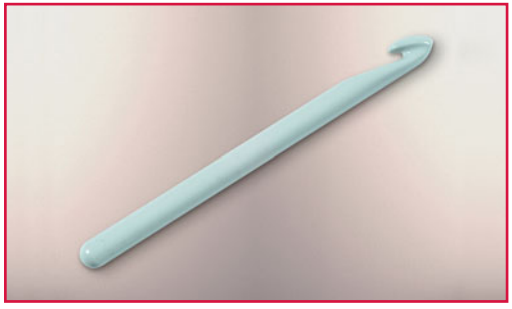
Safety pins can be used in a variety of situations when knitting, such as marking the right side of your garment or to temporarily hold a small number of stitches. You can purchase coil-less safety pins, which will not tangle in yarn, from specialty knitting shops.

Stitch Markers

Stitch markers are commonly used to leave a visual reminder where pattern changes occur and to maintain your place in circular knitting. Stitch markers are available in various colors and can be either a solid or split ring. Split ring markers are advantageous as you can attach them mid-row.

Crochet Hook

A crochet hook is used to correct errors in your knitting, such as picking up a dropped stitch, and is also handy when making fringe. Crochet hooks come in a variety of sizes. Try to keep a few different sizes on hand—bigger hooks for thicker yarn and smaller hooks for thinner yarn.

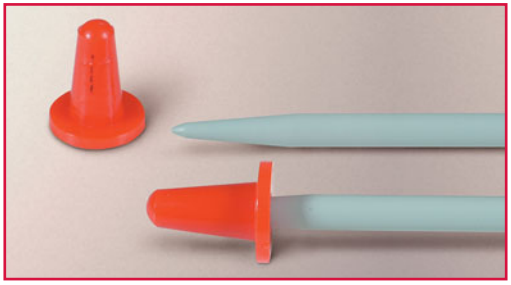


Row Counter

You can place a row counter on the knob end of your needles to keep track of how many rows you have completed. Row counters are not automatic; you have to remember to turn the dial or push the button to advance the counter after each row.

Point Protectors

Point protectors are small rubber caps you put on the pointed ends of your needles when you are not knitting. They help keep stitches from coming off needles when you put away or transport your work.

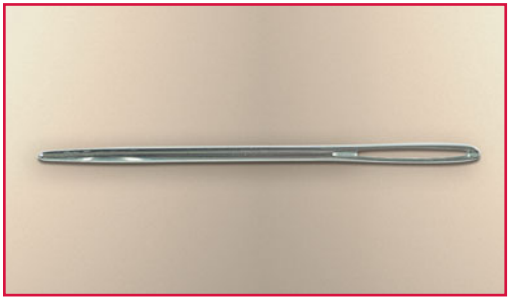


Project Bag

You should store each of your knitting projects, including a copy of the pattern and the tools you are working with, in a separate canvas or cotton bag. The ideal project bag is large enough to hold everything you need for your current project.

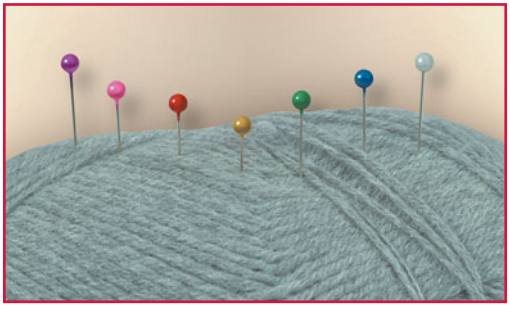
Tapestry Needles

Tapestry needles, also known as sewing, darning, and yarn needles, look like large sewing needles and have a dull tip. These needles are often used to sew pieces of knitted fabric together and weave in yarn ends. Considering that tapestry needles come in many different sizes, make sure the eye of the needle is large enough for the yarn you are using to pass through.



Straight Pins

Straight pins are used to hold knitted pieces together as you complete your project. The best straight pins have large heads so that you do not lose sight of them in your project. Straight pins are also vital for blocking.



Knitting and the Internet

The Internet is a valuable resource for new and experienced knitters alike who want information about knitting and the opportunity to interact and share ideas with other knitters around the world. The following are some popular Web sites devoted to sharing information about knitting.

- Interweave Knits Magazine—www.interweave.com/knit
- Knit 'N Style Magazine Online—www.knitnstyle.com
- Vogue Knitting International —www.vogueknitting.com
- The Red Sweater—www.theredsweater.com
- Knitting Now—www.knittingnow.com
- Craft Yarn Council of America www.craftyarncouncil.com
- ChicKnits—www.chicknits.com
- The KnitList—www.knitlist.com
- Baa Baa Knits & Needleworks—www.baabaaknits.com

FUN FACT

When you put together your knitting toolkit, a good place to look before going to the store is your grandma's or aunt's house. Lots of times they will have those knitting tools around, even if you've never seen them knit. Knitting needles, pins, stitch markers, and other tools are often passed around and down through the family (usually boxed up with other sewing stuff).

© Mark Urschel 2009

CHAPTER 2

© Mark Urschel 2009

This chapter will introduce you to the fundamental concepts and techniques involved in knitting. Once you become familiar with these basics, you will be able to complete many simple knitted projects. Here you will learn how to hold the yarn and needles, make a slip knot, how to cast on the first row of stitches, and how to knit and purl stitches. This chapter also explains how to read knitting patterns and charts.

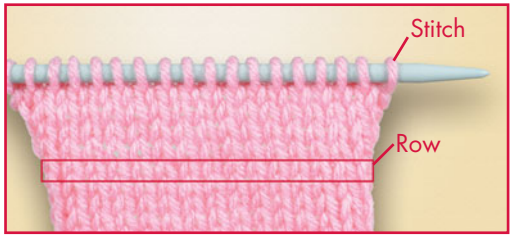
Let's Get This Party Started

Knitspeak: Knitting Terms You Need to Know

Like any other hobby or craft, there are several knit-centric terms that you need to know as you learn how to knit. Because these terms are repeated often throughout the book, understanding what these terms mean will help you more easily follow the tasks covered later. You may want to mark this section so that you can quickly refer to it at a later time.

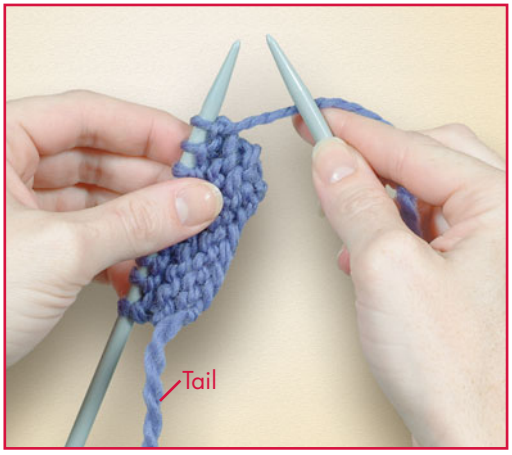
Stitches and Rows

When you knit, you connect a series of loops, called stitches, that hold together to form a piece of fabric. One horizontal line of stitches is called a row of stitches.



Tail of Yarn

The tail of yarn is a strand of yarn that is left over when you cast on (add) stitches, bind off (finish) stitches, or start a new ball of yarn. You can weave in a tail of yarn to incorporate the yarn seamlessly into your knitted fabric.



Right Side and Wrong Side of Fabric

Each knitted piece has a right side and a wrong side. The right side, abbreviated as **RS** in patterns, is the side of the fabric that will show, such as the outside of a sweater. The wrong side, abbreviated as **WS** in patterns, is the side of the fabric that will not show, such as the inside of a sweater. Many knitted items, like sweaters, have a definite right side and wrong side. For some knitted items, such as scarves, you cannot tell the difference between the right side and the wrong side.

Right Side

Wrong Side

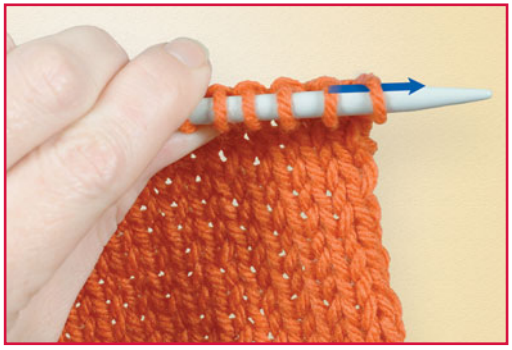
How to Insert the Needle

When creating and working with stitches, you will need to insert a needle into the front or the back of a stitch. You will most commonly insert a needle into the front of a stitch.

Front of Stitch (Left to Right)

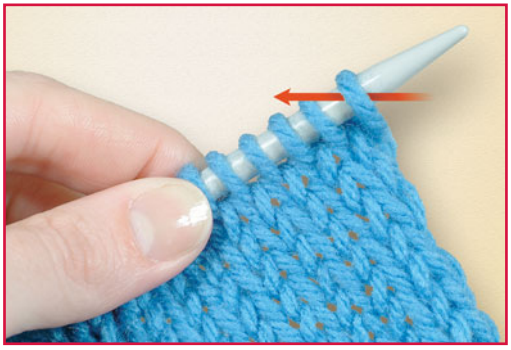
Inserting a needle into the front of a stitch from left to right is referred to as inserting the needle into the stitch **knitwise** because this is the same way you insert the needle when you perform the knit stitch—a basic stitch in knitting.

Back of Stitch (Left to Right)



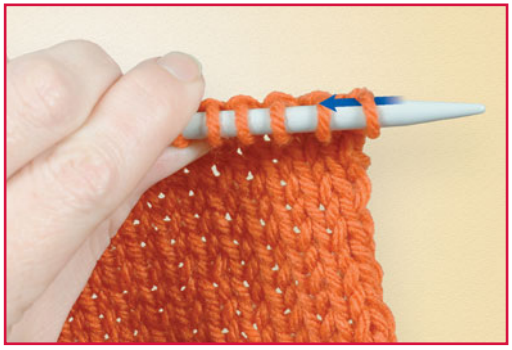
You can also insert a needle into the back of a stitch from left to right.

Front of Stitch (Right to Left)



Inserting a needle into the front of a stitch from right to left is referred to as inserting the needle into the stitch **purlwise** because this is the same way you insert the needle when you perform the purl stitch, which is the other basic stitch in knitting.

Back of Stitch (Right to Left)



You can insert a needle into the back of a stitch from right to left.

How to Hold Your Yarn and Needles

There are two styles of knitting: English, in which you hold the yarn in your right hand, and Continental, in which you hold the yarn in your left hand.

Knitters adapt these styles to their own needs and comfort as they become more experienced, so there is really no right or wrong way to hold the yarn and needles. Try both the English and Continental styles to see which feels most comfortable to you and allows you to control the tension on the yarn most effectively. When experimenting with different styles, you should pay attention to your grip on the yarn (this is what is meant by *controlling the tension* on the yarn—how tightly you are holding onto it, and thus how tight, or loose, your stitches are). The method you choose should allow the yarn to flow smoothly through your fingers. Applying a slight tension to the yarn will not only produce neater stitches that are all the same size and shape, it will help you knit more efficiently.

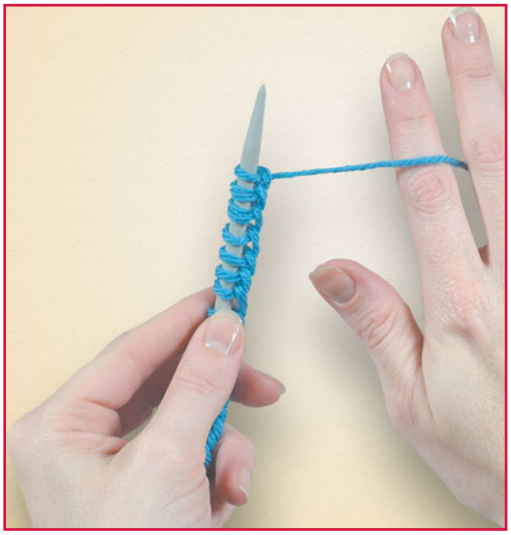
© Mark Urschel 2009

Beginning knitters (and experienced ones, too) often start out a project (or an afternoon's knitting session) with a nice, loose-but-not-too-loose tension on the yarn and then, as they knit, hold on tighter and tighter to the yarn as they go. Two things happen because of this: First, the changes in yarn tension will change the shape and size of your stitches so that your knitted piece changes size and shape from top to bottom or side to side. Second, if you're holding the yarn too tightly, your hands and shoulders are likely tensing up, too, which makes for a very sore, sad knitter!

It is a good idea to stop every 20 rows or so and roll your shoulders, open and close your hands a few times, and generally remind yourself to relax. This is supposed to be fun, remember?!

English Style

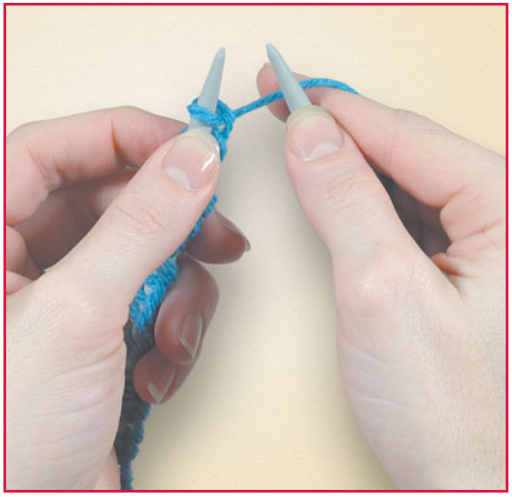
1 With the yarn in your right hand, wrap the yarn counterclockwise around your pinky finger.



2 Weave the yarn under your ring and middle fingers and then over your index finger. The yarn should lie between the first and second knuckles on your index finger. Use your pinky, ring, and middle fingers to hold the yarn loosely in your hand.

3 Hold the needle with the stitches in your left hand. Your thumb and index finger hold the needle just behind the first stitch. Use your other fingers to help support the needle.

4 Hold the empty needle in your right hand. Position your thumb approximately an inch from the tip of the needle and use your middle, ring, and pinky fingers to help support the needle.



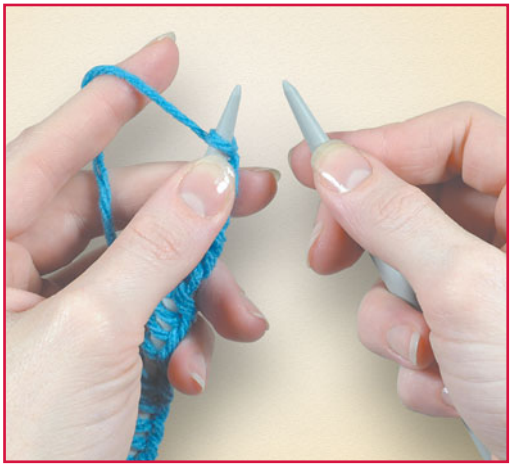
Continental Style

1 With the yarn in your left hand, wrap the yarn clockwise around your pinky finger.

2 Weave the yarn under your ring and middle fingers and then over your index finger. The yarn should lie between the first and second knuckles on your index finger. Use your pinky, ring, and middle fingers to hold the yarn loosely in your hand.

3 Hold the needle with the stitches in your left hand. Position your thumb just behind the first stitch and use your middle, ring, and pinky fingers to help support the needle.

4 Hold the empty needle in your right hand. Your thumb and index finger hold the needle approximately an inch from the tip. Use your other fingers to help support the needle.



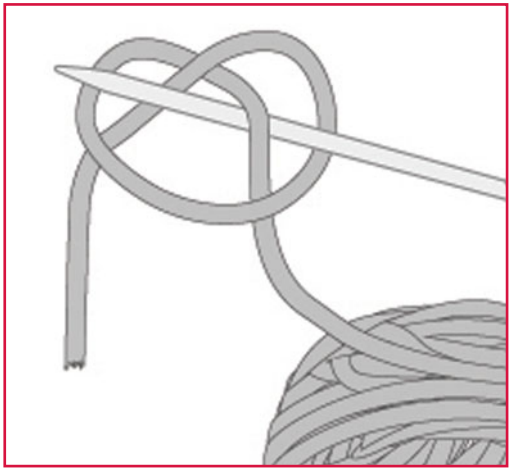
Make a Slip Knot

Before you begin to knit, you've got to get the yarn on the needle by tying a slip knot on it. This slip knot will become your first stitch. Once the slip knot is on your needle, tighten it up gently. The slip knot should be tied snugly around the needle, but still be loose enough to slide along the needle. And don't forget that you need to leave approximately 4 to 6 inches of yarn for the tail.

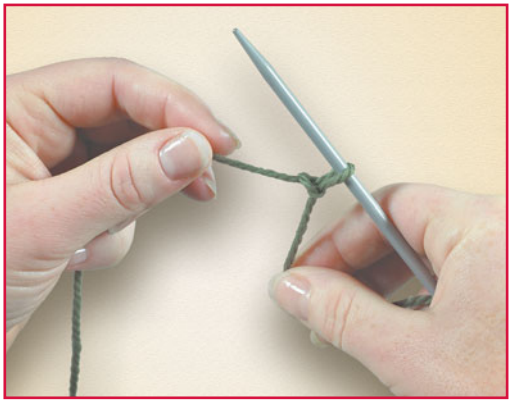
1 Make a pretzel-shaped loop with your yarn, allowing the strand of yarn connected to the ball to hang down behind the loop. Sometimes it is easier to lay it out on your lap or something flat to get the shape of the loop just right.

2 Insert the tip of a needle through the loop, from front to back.

3 Move the tip of the needle behind the strand of yarn connected to the ball and then bring the tip through the front of the loop.



4 Gently pull both ends of the yarn in opposite directions to tighten the slip knot around the needle. The slip knot becomes the first stitch on the needle.

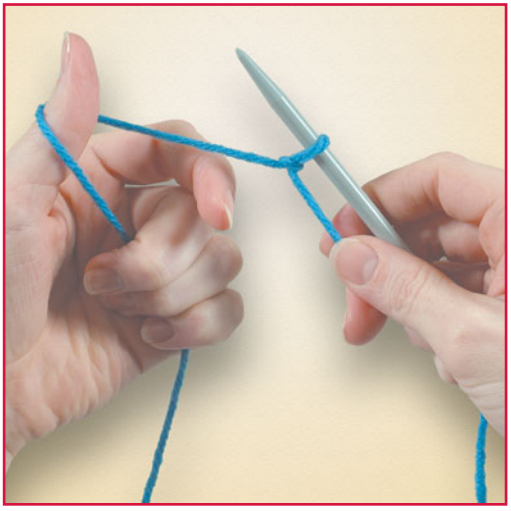


We've Only Just Begun: Casting On

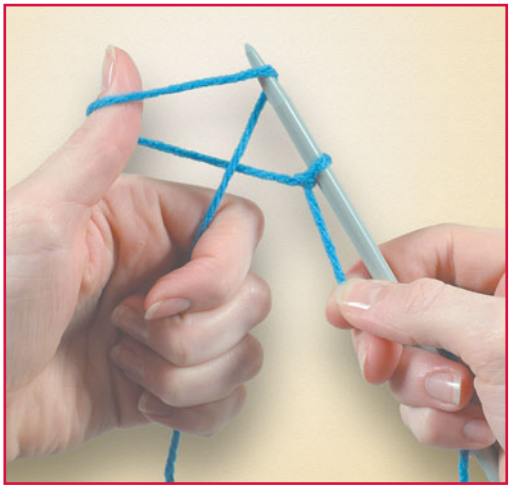
Casting on is a really important skill in knitting because it adds the first row of stitches to a needle, and thus directly affects the entire shape of the piece. For example, if your first row is too snug, it will be difficult for you to knit the next row. If your first row is too loose, your garment may be stretched out. The goal is to form neat stitches with consistent tension.

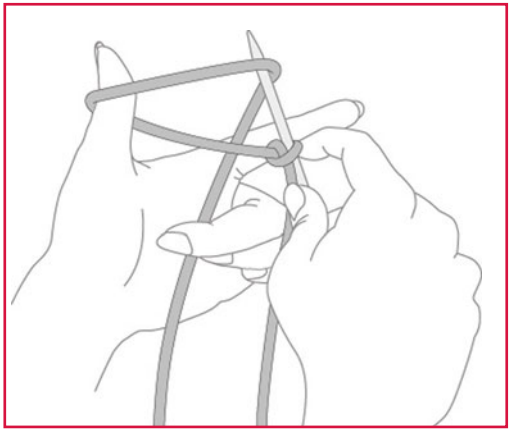
Casting on, abbreviated as **CO** in patterns and instructions, creates the first row of stitches following the slip knot.

1. Make a slip knot on one needle.
2. Hold the needle containing the slip knot in your right hand.
3. Wrap the strand of yarn connected to the ball around your left thumb, clockwise from front to back. Use the fingers of your left hand to hold the strand of yarn connected to the ball loosely in your palm.



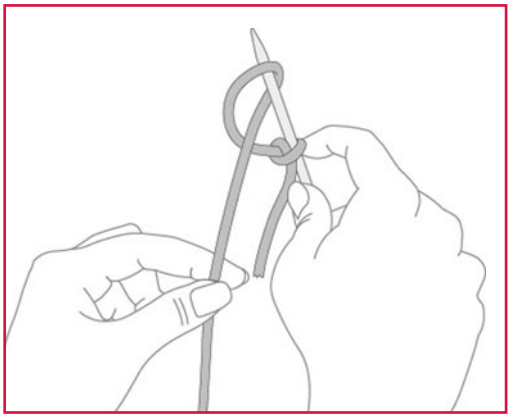
4. Insert the tip of the needle between your thumb and the strand of yarn, from bottom to top.

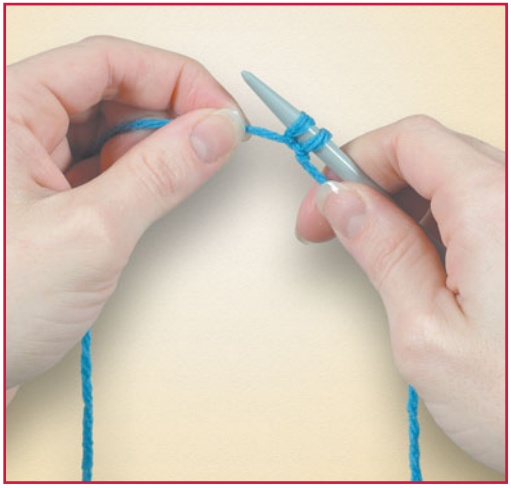




5 Remove your thumb from the loop of yarn.

6 Gently pull on the strand of yarn connected to the ball to tighten the stitch.





7 Repeat steps 3 to 6 for each stitch you want to cast on.

When you begin casting on, you may not feel comfortable right away; it is often a challenge to get the right tension that's not too tight and not too loose. To practice, try casting on over and over. Cast on stitches until you run out of room on the needle, then take all the stitches off the needle, unravel the yarn, make another slip knot and start again. When the yarn starts to fray, cut off the yarn and start over with new yarn. Keep practicing until you feel comfortable.

Cast on stitches should be snug on the needle, but should still be able to slide up and down easily. If you discover that a stitch you just cast on is a little loose, gently pull the strand of yarn attached to the ball.

When you finish casting on and begin knitting your first row, cast-on stitches should be loose enough that the right needle slides between the left needle and the stitches smoothly. If you find you are casting on too tightly, try casting the stitches onto a needle one size larger than you will use to knit the piece. Then switch to the correct needle size when you knit the first row.

The Knit Stitch

The knit stitch is the most basic stitch in knitting. In patterns, the knit stitch is represented by a K. For example, K12 means to knit 12 stitches.

Just as there are two ways to hold the yarn and needles, there are also two ways to make the knit stitch—the English style (holding the yarn in the right hand) and the Continental style (holding the yarn in the left hand). The English style is the most popular. (You will learn about the Continental style in the following pages, but the remainder of the examples in this book will use the English style.)

A stitch is shaped like an upside down droplet ( ). When you knit a stitch, the bottom part of the droplet (the V shape) is on the front of your work. The top part of the droplet (the bump) is on the back of your work.

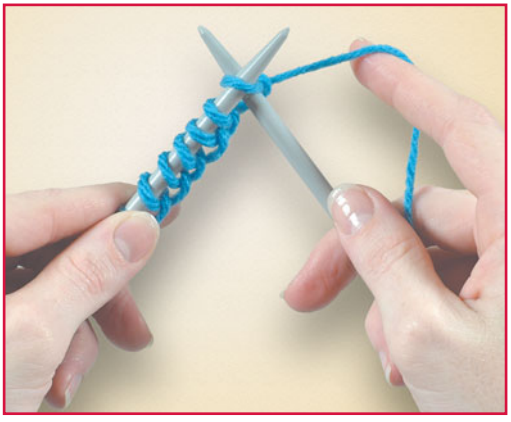
Once you have cast stitches onto your needle, you can start knitting. You continue to knit a row until there are no stitches remaining on the left needle. To begin a new row in the English style, you move the needle with the stitches to your left hand, hold the empty needle in your right hand and continue knitting. Remember to always keep the yarn *at the back* of your work for the knit stitch.

English Style

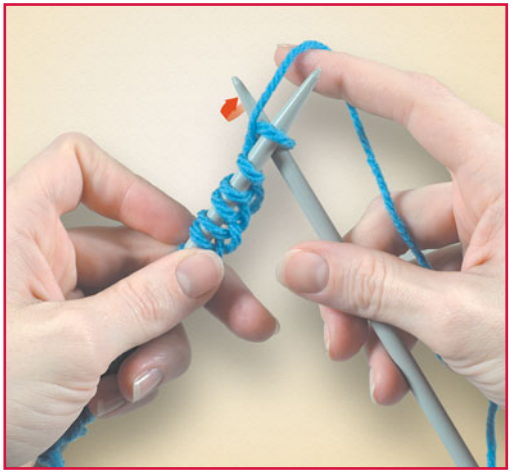
1 Hold the needle containing the stitches in your left hand.

2 Hold the empty needle and yarn in your right hand, with the yarn resting *behind* the needle.

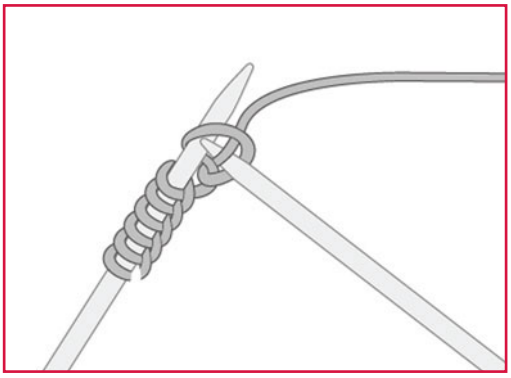
3 Insert the tip of the right needle into the front of the first stitch on the left needle, from left to right. The right needle is behind the left needle and the tips of the needles form an "X."



4 Wrap the yarn around the tip of the right needle once, counterclockwise from back to front.

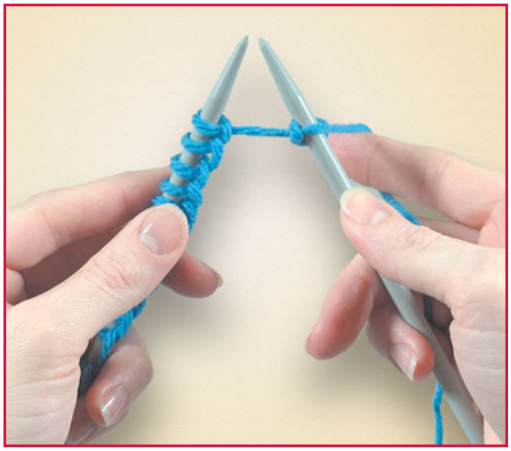


5 Slide the tip of the right needle and the wrapped yarn back through the stitch toward you. You can position the tip of your left forefinger on the point of the right needle as you perform this step to help prevent the wrapped yarn from slipping off the needle.



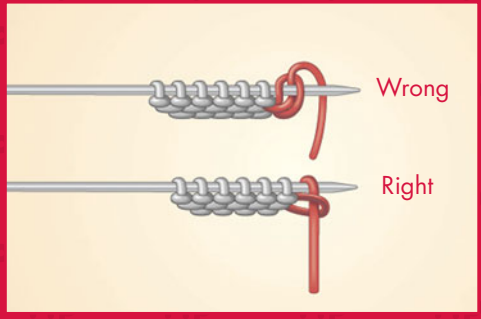
The right needle will end up in front of the left needle and will hold a new stitch.

6 Slide the original stitch off the left needle. You have now completed one knit stitch!



7 Repeat steps 3 to 6 for each stitch on the left needle, ensuring the yarn rests behind the needles before you knit each stitch.

If it looks like you have an extra stitch on your needle after you knit a row, the yarn may be lying overtop of your needle, making it seem as if there is an extra stitch. This is a common mistake. Once you finish a row of knit stitches and are ready to begin a new row, make sure the yarn is hanging straight down from your needle and all the stitches are below the needle.



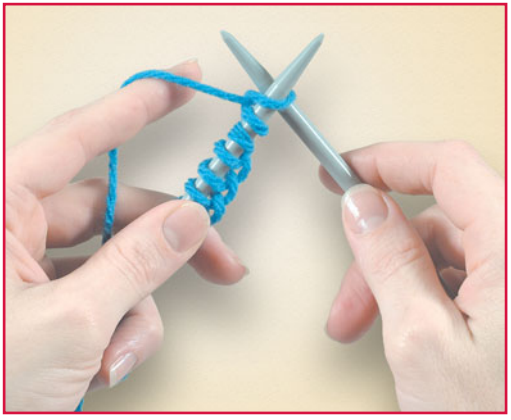
Continental Style

In the Continental style, you hold both the needle with the stitches and the yarn in your left hand. Your right hand holds the empty needle. Remember to always keep the yarn behind your work when performing the knit stitch.

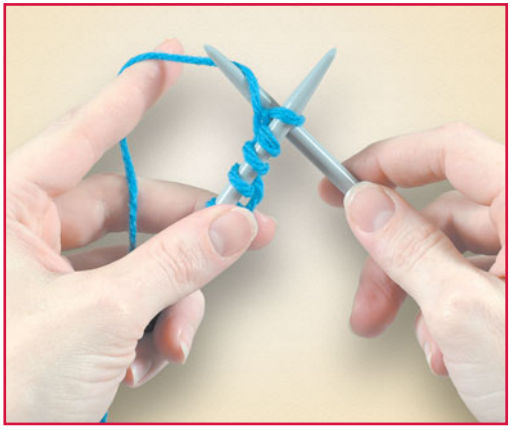
1 Hold the yarn and the needle containing the stitches in your left hand, with the yarn resting *behind* the needle.

2 Hold the empty needle in your right hand.

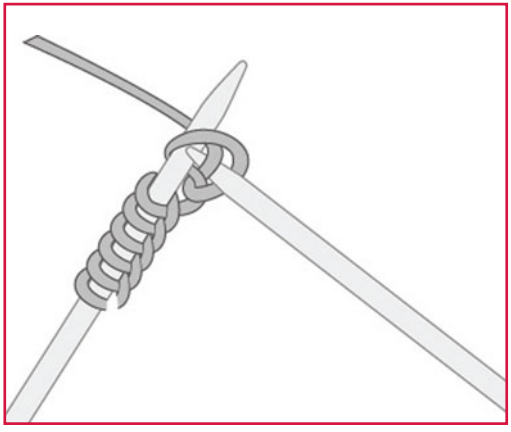
3 Insert the tip of the right needle into the front of the first stitch on the left needle, from left to right. The right needle is behind the left needle and the tips of the needles form an "X."



4 Place the yarn over the tip of the right needle, from front to back.

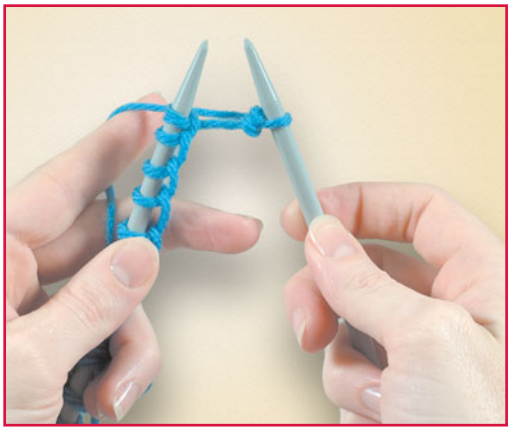


5 Slide the tip of the right needle and the wrapped yarn back through the stitch toward you.



The right needle will end up in front of the left needle and will hold a new stitch.

6 Slide the original stitch off the left needle. You have completed one knit stitch!



7 Repeat steps 3 to 6 for each stitch on the left needle, ensuring the yarn rests behind the needles before you knit the next stitch.

FUN FACT

If you are left-handed, try both the English and Continental styles to determine which style works best for you. However, if you find both styles too awkward, you can try the styles in reverse, substituting right for left and left for right throughout the steps. Hold the needle containing the stitches in your right hand and the empty needle in your left hand. As you knit, move the stitches from the right needle to the left needle.

The Purl Stitch

The purl stitch is the reverse of the knit stitch. When making a purl stitch, you put your needle into the stitch from right to left, instead of left to right. You also hold the yarn in front of your work for a purl stitch, instead of behind your work.

There are two styles of purling—the English style (holding the yarn in the right hand) and the Continental style (holding the yarn in the left hand). If you knit in the English style, you should also purl in the English style.

No matter which purl style you use, each stitch you make is shaped like an upside down droplet. When you purl a stitch, the top part of the droplet (the bump) is on the front of your work. The bottom part of the droplet (the V shape) is on the back of your work.

In patterns, the purl stitch is represented by a **P**. For example, **P15** means to purl 15 stitches.

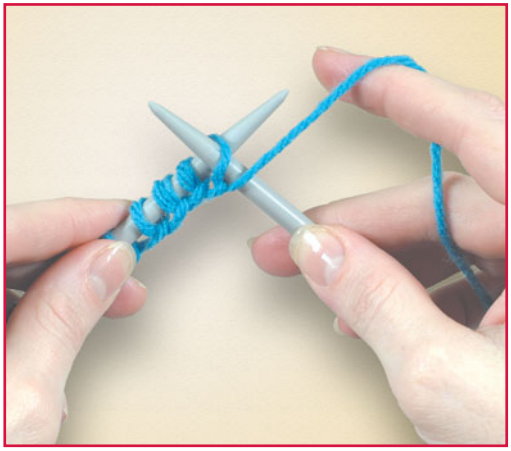
English Style

When purling or knitting, you continue to purl or knit a row until there are no stitches remaining on the left needle. To begin a new row, you move the needle with the stitches to your left hand and hold the empty needle in your right hand.

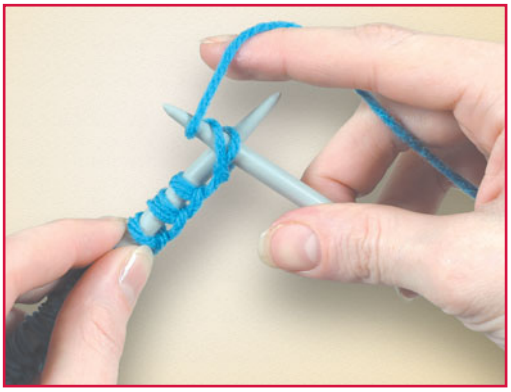
1 Hold the needle containing the stitches in your left hand.

2 Hold the empty needle and yarn in your right hand, with the yarn resting *in front of* the needle.

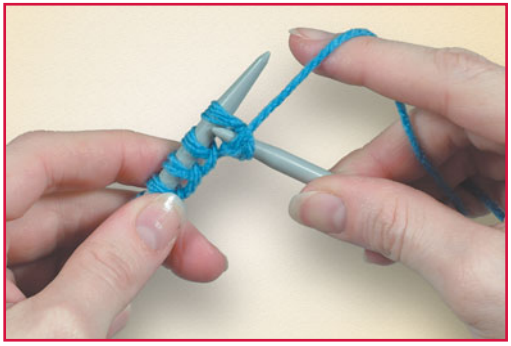
3 Insert the tip of the right needle into the front of the first stitch on the left needle, from right to left. The right needle is *in front of* the left needle and the tips of the needles form an "X."



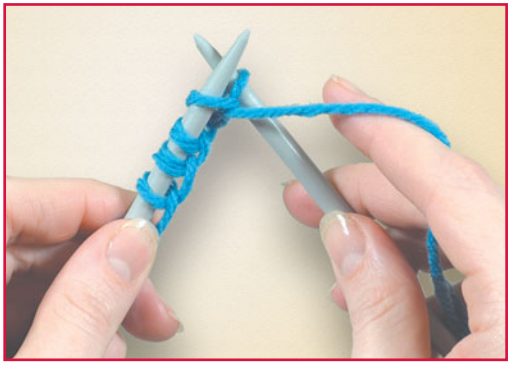
4 Wrap the yarn around the tip of the right needle once, counterclockwise from back to front.



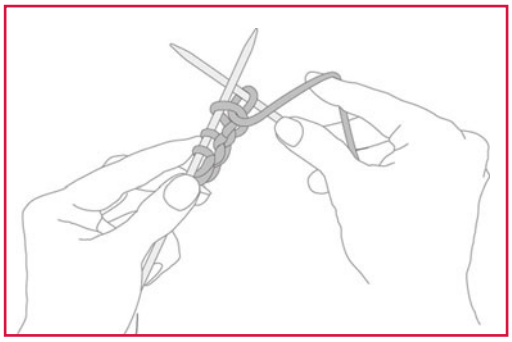
5 Slide the tip of the right needle and the wrapped yarn back through the stitch away from you.

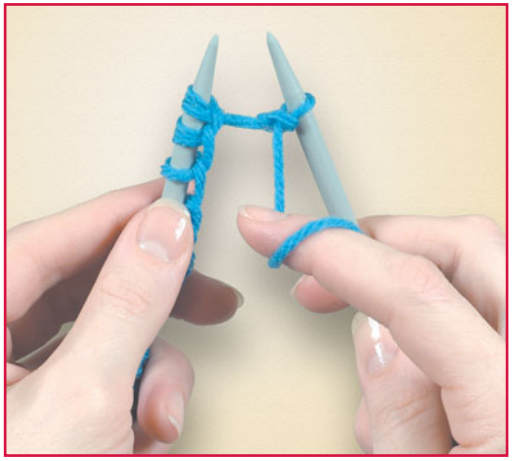


The right needle will end up behind the left needle and will hold a new stitch.



6 Slide the original stitch off the left needle. You have now completed one purl stitch!





7 Repeat steps 3 to 6 for each stitch on the left needle, ensuring the yarn rests *in front of* the needles before you purl each stitch.

If you put your knitting down for a minute and then come back to it, sometimes it is hard to tell which side is the right side and which side is the wrong side. When you pick up your knitting needles, make sure the yarn is hanging down from the first stitch at the tip of the needle in your right hand. This will ensure that your hands are holding the correct needles. To avoid this type of confusion in the future, you should always try to complete an entire row before putting down your work.

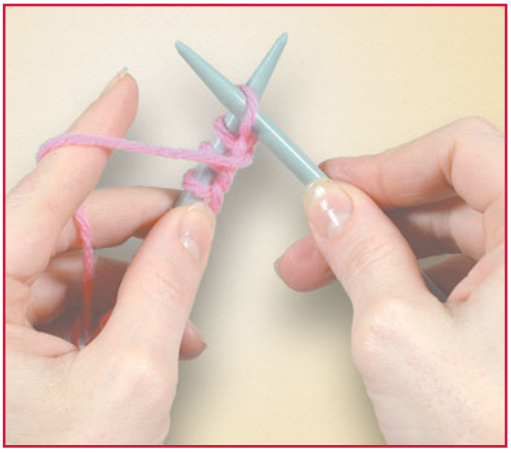
Continental Style

Like the English style, the Continental style of purling also requires you to hold the yarn in front of your work when making a purl stitch.

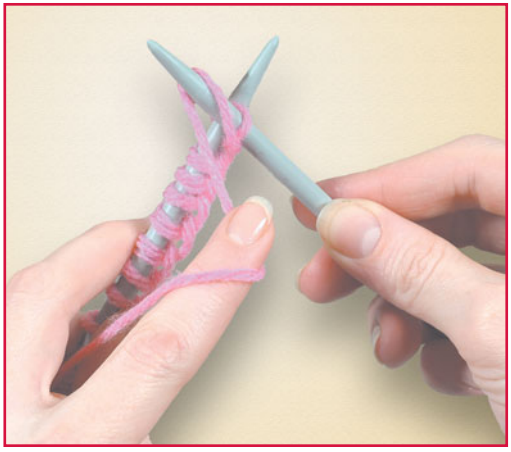
1 Hold the yarn and the needle containing the stitches in your left hand, with the yarn resting *in front of* the needle.

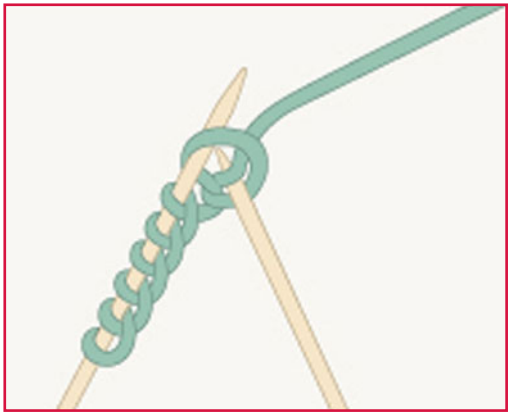
2 Hold the empty needle in your right hand.

3 Insert the tip of the right needle into the front of the first stitch on the left needle, from right to left. The right needle is in front of the left needle and the tips of the needles form an "X."

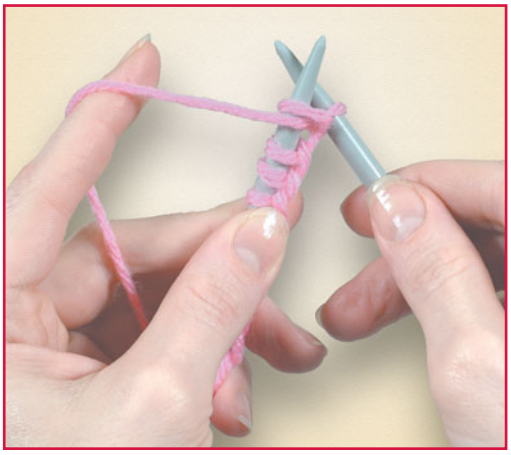


4 Place the yarn over the tip of the right needle from front to back and then position the yarn between the needles.

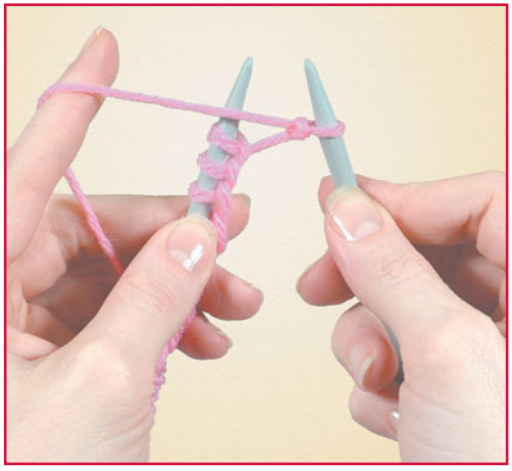




5 Slide the tip of the right needle and the wrapped yarn back through the stitch away from you. The right needle will end up behind the left needle and will hold a new stitch.



6 Slide the original stitch off the left needle. You have now completed one purl stitch!



7 Repeat steps 3 to 6 for each stitch on the left needle, ensuring the yarn rests *in front of* the needles before you purl each stitch.

Creating Basic Patterns with Your Knits and Purls

Once you have learned to knit and purl, you can create different patterns in your knitting. While working in entire rows of either the knit or purl stitch, you can create two of the most common patterns—*garter* stitch and *stockinette* stitch.

Garter stitch is formed when stitches are either knit on every row or purled on every row. A knitted piece created in garter stitch looks exactly the same on the front and back, which makes garter stitch a popular fabric for items such as scarves and blankets. Garter stitch is easy to identify by its rows of bumps on both sides.

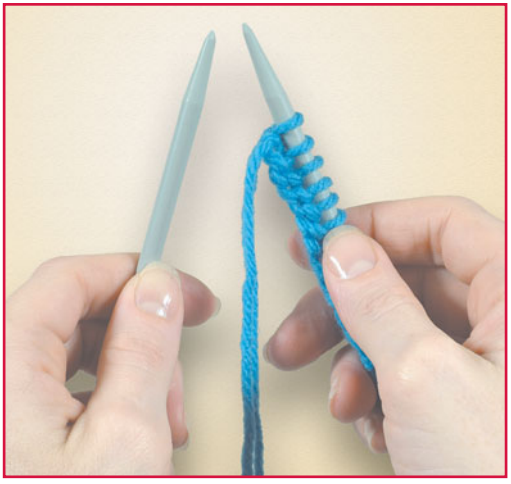
Stockinette, or stocking, stitch is formed by alternating between a row of knit stitches and a row of purl stitches. This pattern creates a knitted fabric that is smooth on one side (the right side) and bumpy on the other (the wrong side). Stockinette stitch is commonly used to create the main fabric for many types of garments. In patterns and instructions, the abbreviation for stockinette stitch is **St st**.

Tip

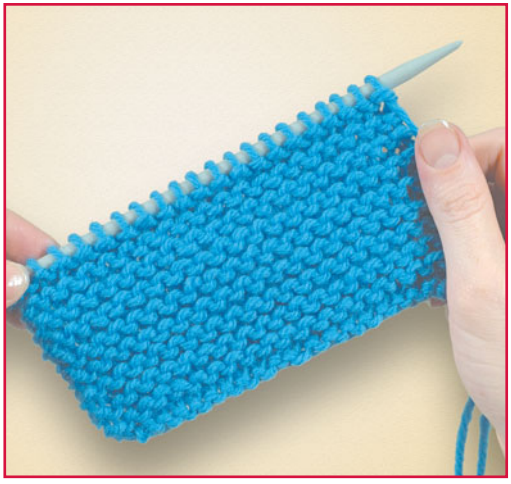
Fabric knitted in stockinette stitch tends to curl at the edges. The top and bottom edges curl toward the right side of the fabric, while the side edges curl toward the wrong side of the fabric.

Garter Stitch

1 Knit all the stitches in the row.

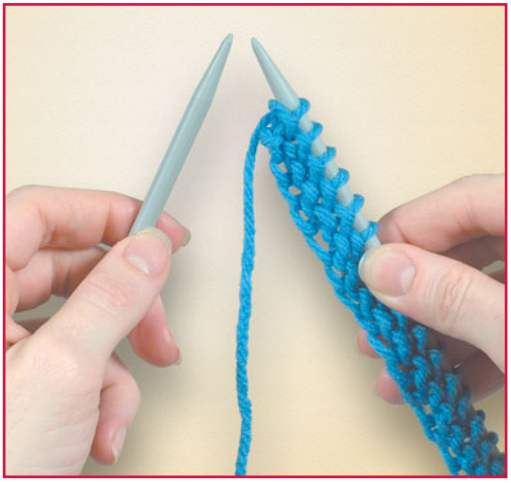


2 Repeat step 1 and keep knitting rows until your work is the length you want. Your work will have the same appearance on both sides.



Stockinette Stitch

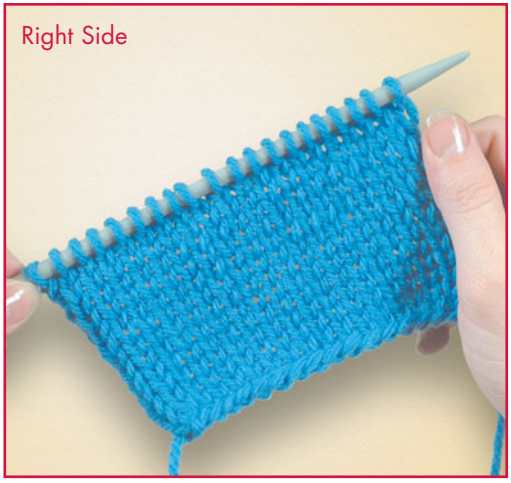
1 Knit all the stitches in the row.

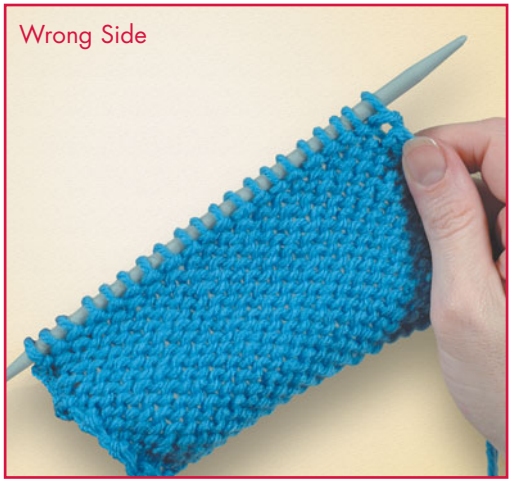


2 Purl all the stitches in the next row.

3 Repeat steps 1 and 2 until your work is the length you want.

Your work will appear smooth on the right side and bumpy on the wrong side.





FUN FACT

You can also create a garter stitch pattern by purling all the stitches in every row. Try it!

Still More Patterns Using Knits and Purls

Once you've got garter and stockinette stitch figured out, you're ready to move on and discover the nearly boundless array of other patterns you can make simply by mixing your knits and purls. The simple patterns shown below are just a small fraction of those available to the enquiring knitter. Experimentation is the name of this game!

Symbols and abbreviations are explained later in this chapter in the section called "How to Read a Knitting Pattern."

Seed Stitch

Cast on a multiple of 2 stitches (2, 4, 6, and so on).

Row 1: *K1. P1. Repeat from * to the end of the row.

Row 2: *P1. K1. Repeat from * to the end of the row.

Repeat Rows 1 and 2 to the desired length.

Double Seed Stitch

Cast on a multiple of 4 stitches (4, 8, 12, and so on).

Row 1: *K2. P2. Repeat from * to the end of the row.

Row 2: As Row 1.

Row 3: *P2. K2. Repeat from * to the end of the row.

Row 4: As Row 3.

Repeat Rows 1 to 4 to the desired length.

Moss Stitch

Cast on a multiple of 2 stitches (2, 4, 6, and so on).

Row 1: *K1. P1. Repeat from * to the end of the row.

Row 2: As Row 1.

Row 3: *P1. K1. Repeat from * to the end of the row.

Row 4: As Row 3.

Repeat Rows 1 to 4 to the desired length.

Simple Seed Stitch

Cast on a multiple of 4 stitches (4, 8, 12, and so on), plus 1 stitch.

Row 1 (RS): P1. *K3. P1. Repeat from * to the end of the row.

Row 2 and all wrong-side (WS) rows: Purl.

Row 3: Knit.

Row 5: K2. P1. *K3. P1. Repeat from * to last 2 stitches, K2.

Row 7: Knit.

Row 8: Purl.

Repeat Rows 1 to 8 to the desired length.

Basketweave

Cast on a multiple of 8 stitches (8, 16, 24, and so on), plus 5 stitches.

Row 1 (RS): Knit.

Row 2: K5. *P3. K5. Repeat from * to the end of the row.

Row 3: P5. *K3. P5. Repeat from * to the end of the row.

Row 4: As Row 2.

Row 5: Knit.

Row 6: K1. *P3. K5. Repeat from * to last 4 stitches, then P3. K1.

Row 7: P1. *K3. P5. Repeat from * to last 4 stitches, then K3. P1.

Row 8: As Row 6.

Repeat Rows 1 to 8 to the desired length.

Make Ribbing—But Hold the Sauce

Knitting in a ribbing pattern creates vertical ridges by alternating knit and purl stitches in the same row. Ribbing produces a stretchy fabric that is frequently used in neckbands, cuffs, edges, and other borders. This elasticity allows neckbands and cuffs to expand over the head and hands and return to their original shape. Ribbing is usually worked on a smaller needle than the needle used for the rest of a project.

On each row, you purl the stitches that were knitted in the previous row and you knit the stitches that were purled in the previous row. In other words, if the flat side of the next stitch is facing you, you knit the stitch. If the bumpy side is facing you, you purl the stitch. You will notice that pattern instructions for rib knits are often written as "knit the knit stitches and purl the purl stitches." As a result, the knits are aligned above the knit stitches and the purls are aligned above the purl stitches.

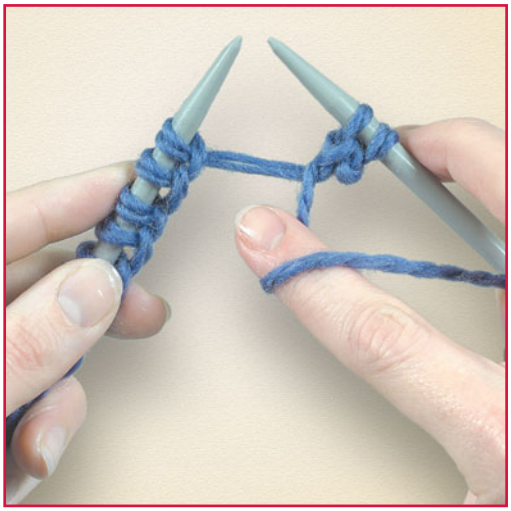
© Mark Urschel 2009

In this example, we make a knit 2, purl 2 ribbing pattern.

1 Cast on 16 stitches.

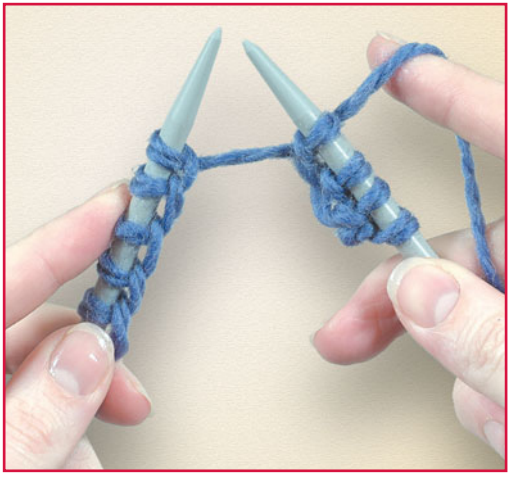
2 Knit the first two stitches.

3 Bring the yarn between the needles and place it **in front of** your work.

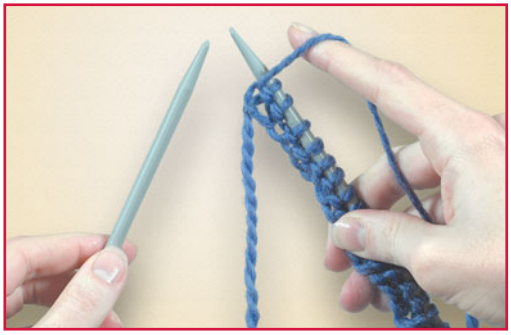


4 Purl the next two stitches on the left needle.

5 Bring the yarn between the needles and place it behind your work.



6 Repeat steps 2 to 5 until you complete all the stitches on the left needle.



7 Move the needle containing the stitches to your left hand and the empty needle to your right hand. Then repeat steps 2 to 6.

8 Repeat steps 2 to 7 until your work is the desired length. Notice the ridged effect created by the alternating knit stitches and purl stitches.

There are many different ribbing variations you can use to produce the look you want. You can create a knit 1 purl 1 ribbing or a knit 3 purl 3 ribbing. You can also create ribbing in which the number of knit and purl stitches are different. For example, you can make a knit 4 purl 2 ribbing or a knit 2 purl 5 ribbing.

The number of stitches in the ribbing pattern determines the elasticity of the ribbed fabric. Fewer stitches will produce a more elastic ribbed fabric. For example, a knit 2 purl 2 ribbing is more elastic than a knit 5 purl 5 ribbing.

Knit 1 Purl 1 Rib

Cast on a multiple of 2 stitches (2, 4, 6, and so on).

Every Row: *K1. P1. Repeat from * to the end of the row.

Mistake Stitch Rib

Cast on a multiple of 4 stitches (4, 8, 12, and so on), plus 3 stitches.

Every Row: *K2. P2. Repeat from * to last 3 stitches, then K2. P1.

Broken 2 × 2 Rib

Cast on a multiple of 4 stitches (4, 8, 12, and so on).

Row 1 (RS): *K2. P2. Repeat from * to the end of the row.

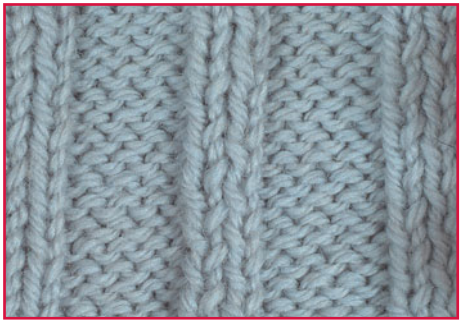
Rows 2 to 6: Rep Row 1.

Row 7: *P2. K2. Repeat from * to the end of the row.

Rows 8 to 12: Repeat Row 7.

Repeat Rows 1 to 12.

Knit 2 Purl 5 Rib



Cast on a multiple of 7 stitches (7, 14, 21, and so on), plus 2 stitches.

Row 1 (RS): K2. *P5. K2. Repeat from * to the end of the row.

Row 2: P2. *K5. P2. Repeat from * to the end of the row.

Repeat Rows 1 and 2.

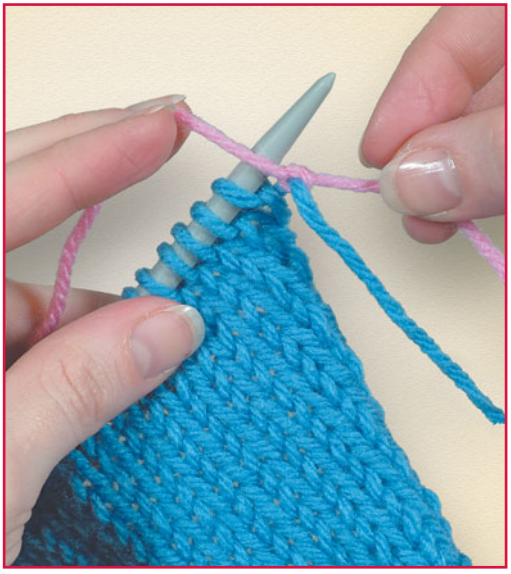
Keeping the Ball Rolling: Starting a New Ball of Yarn

When you run out of yarn or want to introduce a new color into your project, you will have to start a new ball of yarn and join the new yarn to your work. Ideally, you should start a new ball of yarn at the end of a row so that you can hide the yarn ends in a seam. When you are unable to join yarn at the end of a row, try to join the yarn in a place where it will not stand out. For example, join the yarn where you have lots of knit and purl stitches that make up a design rather than joining the yarn in the middle of a plain stockinette stitch.

Every time you join yarn from a new ball, you will have strands of yarn to weave into your work. Remember to leave the strands long enough (approximately 4 to 6 inches) so that they are easy to work with. If you take care when joining new balls of yarn, not only will your knitting be neat and tidy, but your work will hold together firmly.

1 Cut the original strand of yarn, leaving approximately 6 inches of yarn for the tail.

2 Tie the new yarn loosely around the original yarn near the first stitch, leaving approximately 6 inches of yarn.



3 Start knitting with the new yarn.

FUN FACT

You can make a plain pattern really pop by changing balls of yarn as you work to make stripes of any colors you want. You can make big stripes, little stripes, or a combination of both! This technique is a really great way to add some pizzazz to simple scarves and hats.

This Is the End: Binding Off

Binding off, also known as casting off, is a method of finishing the stitches on a completed knitted piece. Binding off removes stitches from your needles and secures the stitches to keep them from unraveling. A piece of knitting that has been bound off can remain on its own or be joined to other knitted pieces, such as joining a sleeve to the body of a sweater.

The knit bind off is the easiest bind off method to learn and is also the most commonly used. The knit bind off produces a firm, clean edge. Unless a project specifies a particular bind off method, you should use the bind off method that matches the stitch pattern used in your knitted piece. For example, if you are working on a knit 2 purl 2 ribbing, you should do a knit bind off for the knit stitches and a purl bind off for the purl stitches.

The abbreviation for binding off in patterns and instructions is **BO**.

1 Knit the first two stitches on the left needle. The right needle now holds two stitches.

2 Insert the tip of the left needle into the front of the first stitch you knitted on the right needle, from left to right.

3 Using the left needle, lift the stitch over the second stitch you knitted and allow the lifted stitch to drop off both needles.

One stitch remains on the right needle and one stitch has been bound off.

4 Knit the next stitch on the left needle.

5 To bind off all the stitches, repeat steps 2 to 4 until there is only one stitch remaining on the right needle.

6 Cut the yarn, leaving a strand of yarn at least 3 inches long. When you bind off work that you will sew to another piece, you should leave a longer strand.

7 Slide the needle out of the last stitch. Then thread the strand of yarn through the stitch and gently pull until the loop is closed.

The Gauge Page

© Mark Urschel 2009

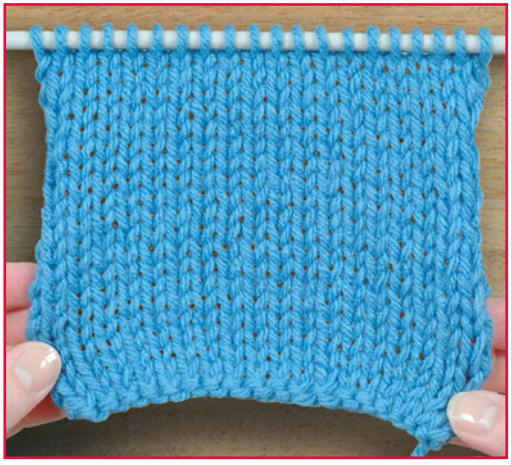
Before you begin any project, you should always knit a gauge swatch. Let me say that again. *Before you begin any project, you should always knit a gauge swatch!* A gauge swatch is a piece of knitted fabric that allows you to determine whether you are producing the correct number of stitches and rows per inch, referred to as the *gauge*, as required by the specific project you are knitting. Stitches that are too big or too small will change the size and feel of your project. When knitting a gauge swatch, you must use the same yarn and needles you will use for the project.

Pattern instructions usually indicate the gauge for a project by stating the width and length of a one-inch square. For example, a pattern may specify that the stitch gauge (width) is seven stitches per inch and the row gauge (length) is nine rows per inch. A one-inch square, however, is not an adequate sample to accurately measure the gauge. You should create at least a four-inch square gauge swatch.

If you have too many stitches or rows for the required gauge, try knitting another swatch using larger needles. If you have too few stitches or rows, try using smaller needles. Keep making swatches and experimenting until you get just the right gauge called for in your project.

Make and Measure a Gauge Swatch

1. Cast on stitches until the stitches measure more than four inches across.
2. Knit one row and then purl one row until your knitted piece measures more than four inches long. If your pattern indicates a different stitch pattern to use for the gauge swatch, knit that pattern instead.
3. Bind off the stitches to remove the stitches from the needle.



4 Smooth out the knitted piece on a flat surface.

5 Place a tape measure horizontally on the knitted piece and mark four inches with pins. Count the number of stitches between the pins.

6 Place a tape measure on the knitted piece vertically and mark four inches with pins. Count the number of rows between the pins.

FUN FACT

Knitters often find a yarn they love first, and then hunt for a pattern to match to the yarn. This is another situation when making gauges is really important.

8 Compare the number of stitches and rows you counted to the numbers given in your pattern instructions.

If you use a different yarn than is suggested by the pattern instructions, the gauge of your swatch will likely be different. Different needle sizes and types, such as plastic and bamboo needles, can also produce different gauges. The gauge of your swatch also depends on the stitch pattern you use. For example, ribbing patterns will require a different number of stitches per inch than simple stockinette or garter patterns.

Gauges are especially important (and handy) when you choose to use a different yarn than what is specifically called for in a project. You can knit more than one gauge, each using a different needle size, until you match the required gauge size necessary to make that great project with your special yarn.

Making a gauge is a super important part of the knitting process. Nearly every beginning knitter has thought "I'm going to skip the gauge part this time." The result of skipping the gauge process is a project that doesn't turn out like you want it to. Proportions off, too big, or too small. And when you're working with multiple pieces, such as a sweater, the mistakes multiply. Always, always, always make a gauge first!

Purls of Wisdom: How to Read a Knitting Pattern

Knitting patterns provide you with all the information you need to create a knitted project, including detailed instructions that use common knitting abbreviations, terms, and symbols. With practice, you will be able to read knitting pattern instructions quickly and easily. Before beginning a project, you should read all the instructions included in the pattern so that you have a good understanding of how the entire project will be made. Reading all the instructions first will also ensure that you know all the skills you need to know before you start. It's no fun to start a project and *then* find out you need to do something you haven't learned how to yet! If you read the directions first, you'll get that golden opportunity to learn and master a new skill for that fantastic new project.

Size

A knitting pattern usually specifies the approximate dimensions of the finished project. When a project can be made in multiple sizes, the pattern specifies the additional sizes in brackets, such as "Small [Medium, Large]." Throughout the pattern, you will find the instructions for the additional sizes in brackets. For example, a pattern may specify "knit 10 [15, 20] sts," which means you should knit 10 stitches for the small size, 15 stitches for the medium size, or 20 stitches for the large size.

Each size will always be in the same position throughout the pattern. To help ensure you always refer to the instructions for the correct size, you may want to photocopy the pattern and highlight all the information for the size you want to make.

Materials

A pattern will tell you the type, color, weight, and amount of yarn you will need. A pattern will also indicate the knitting needle size you should use and include information about any additional materials you will need, such as buttons or stitch holders.

Gauge

A pattern will indicate the gauge, or tension, required to ensure your finished project will be the correct size. Gauge is the number of stitches and rows you should have in a sample piece of knitted fabric when you use the same needles and yarn you will use for the project.

Stitch Glossary

If a pattern includes a stitch pattern that is repeated throughout the project, a stitch glossary may be included to provide row-by-row instructions for the stitch pattern. Stitch pattern instructions often include the number of stitches required to complete one repeat of the stitch pattern, such as "multiple of 8 stitches, plus 2 stitches." This means that the stitch pattern will be repeated evenly across a row as long as the total number of stitches on the needle is a multiple of 8, such as 16, 48, or 80, with an additional 2 stitches.

Abbreviations

Pattern instructions are written using abbreviations. A list of abbreviations used in the pattern you are following may be included in the pattern. The following is a list of some commonly used knitting abbreviations.

st(s)	Stitch(es)
K	Knit
P	Purl
inc	Increase
dec	Decrease
rep	Repeat
Sl st	Slip stitch
psso	Pass slipped stitch over
K2tog	Knit two stitches together
RS	Right side
WS	Wrong side

Common Knitting Symbols

*

An asterisk (*) marks the beginning of a set of instructions you will repeat. You work the instructions following the asterisk once and then repeat the instructions until you reach the specified location in the current row. For example, a pattern may specify *K2. P2. Rep from * to end of row.

Another common example of the asterisk is "*K2. P2. Rep to last 3 sts, K2, P1." This means you repeat the instructions until you have three stitches remaining on the left needle and then you follow the new instructions for those three stitches.

** **

Double asterisks (**) mark a long section of instructions that you will be asked to repeat later in the pattern. For example, if a section of the front of a sweater is worked the same as the back of a sweater, the instructions for the back are enclosed in double asterisks. The instructions for the front may state "Work from ** to ** as given for Back."

( ) or [ ]

You work the instructions enclosed in parentheses or brackets as many times as indicated by the number immediately following them. For example, if a pattern states "(K5. P5) 7 times," you work the instructions included in the brackets 7 times.

Schematics

Some patterns include a schematic, which is a drawing of a finished piece of the project that shows the final measurements for all the sizes included in the pattern. Schematics are useful for determining which size is best for you and for ensuring that you block your project pieces to the correct size.

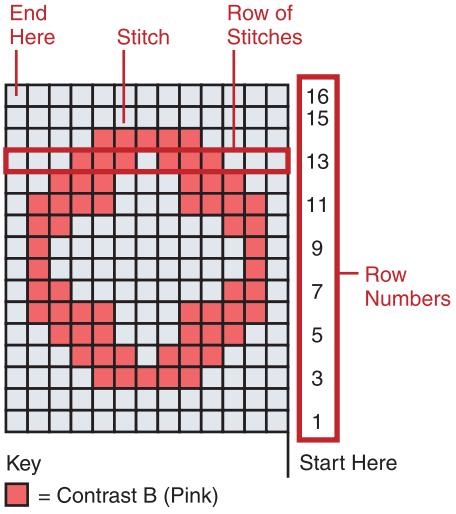
Read a Knitting Chart

Knitting patterns are often presented as charts instead of as written instructions. These charts show how a pattern will appear on the right side of your knitted piece and can indicate specific stitches, colors, and other elements of the piece.

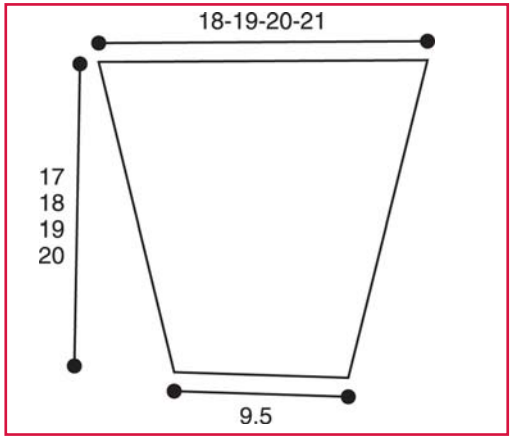
A chart can represent the entire width of a knitted piece or just a single design that repeats across the entire fabric. Compared to written instructions, charts can help you more easily visualize a knitted piece.

How to Read a Chart

Every square in a chart symbolizes a stitch and every line of squares signifies a row of stitches. Row numbers are usually indicated on the sides of the chart.



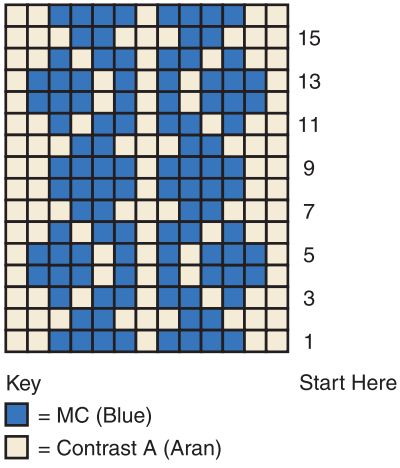
To read a chart, unless otherwise directed, start from the bottom right corner, moving across to the bottom left corner and work up to the top of the chart. You read all odd-numbered rows, which are usually the right-side rows, from right to left. You read all even-numbered rows, which are usually the wrong-side rows, from left to right.



To help you keep your place in a chart, you may want to place a ruler under the row you are working on and move the ruler up to the next row each time you complete a row.

Colors in Charts

Charts for knitting with different colors are presented in different ways. The squares on some charts may be colored or display the name of the color. Alternately, the squares can display a symbol to indicate a particular color. A key usually accompanies the chart to help you identify the color each symbol represents.

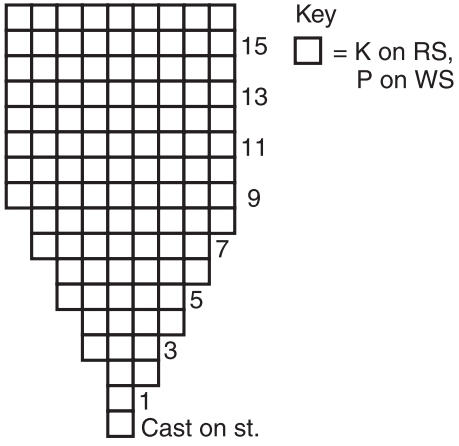


If a square does not contain a symbol, color, or name, you usually work the stitch using the main color for the knitted piece. When only two colors are used, the main color is often marked MC and the contrast color is often marked **CC**.

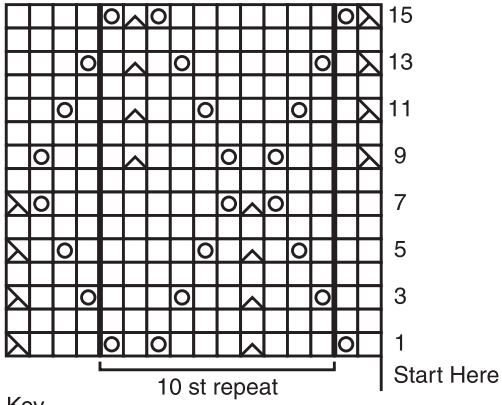
Shaping in Charts

Some knitting patterns include charts that indicate how and when to increase or decrease stitches. These charts are typically used to show shaping for sweater sleeves or necklines.

When increasing or decreasing stitches at the beginning or end of rows, squares are often added or removed from the sides of a chart to indicate the increases or decreases.



Alternately, symbols can appear in the squares of a chart to indicate when to increase or decrease stitches.



Key

= K on RS, P on WS

= Yarn Over

= Sl1K, K2log.psso

= Sl1.K1.psso

Common Chart Symbols

Charts typically include a legend, or key, to help you identify each symbol in the chart. Some common chart symbols include the following:

or	knit on the right side, purl on the wrong side
	purl on the right side, knit on the wrong side
	yarn over
	make one increase
	knit two stitches together
	slip slip knit
	slip one, knit one, pass slipped stitch over
	make a bobble
	cable 4 stitches to the right
	cable 4 stitches to the left

CHAPTER 3

© Mark Urschel 2009

At some point in your knitting life (that is just around the corner), you are going to want to make more than just those fabulous square and rectangle shaped projects! You're going to want to learn to add curves and roundness to your knitwear. That concept is referred to as *shaping*, and you shape a project by adding or removing stitches from your work. In this chapter, you will learn several different methods to increase and decrease stitches to help you shape your projects.

Getting Fancy: Advanced Skills

Expanding Your World: Increasing By One Stitch

Adding width to a project is called *increasing*. Think of it this way: If you were making a blouse, you would need to cut curves in the fabric to accommodate the shape of your arms and body. You can't do that with a knitted piece, though. You have to knit to that specific shape instead. So in those cases where you need to increase the width of your project, you increase the number of stitches you knit!

There are several popular methods of adding stitches in your knitted projects. Each method can be used in a particular situation and results in a specific look. In patterns, the standard abbreviation for an increase is **inc**.

Make a Bar Increase

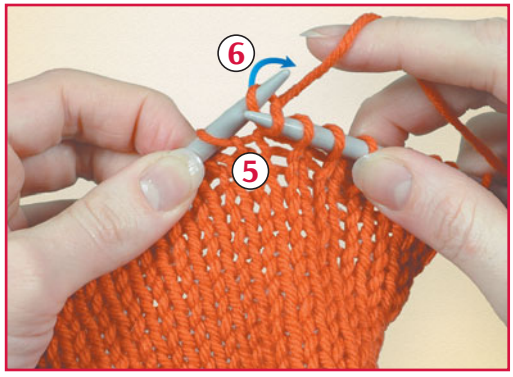
A *bar increase* allows you to turn one stitch into two stitches, and it is the most common way to increase by one stitch. When you add a stitch using this method, a horizontal bar appears beneath the added stitch. These bars allow you to easily keep track of the number of increases you have made. Bar increases are often performed on the edge of a knitted piece that will be sewn to another knitted piece, so the horizontal bars may be hidden in the finished project.

If a pattern instructs you to increase a stitch but does not specify the method to use, you should use the bar increase method. You may also find instructions that indicate a bar increase by telling you to "knit into the front and back of the next stitch," abbreviated as **kfb**.

1. Work to where you want to increase by one stitch.
2. Knit the next stitch on the left needle, but do not slide the original stitch off the left needle.
3. Insert the tip of the right needle into the back of the original stitch, from right to left.

4 Wrap the yarn around the tip of the right needle once, counterclockwise from back to front.

5 Slide the tip of the right needle and the wrapped yarn back through the stitch toward you.



6 Slide the original stitch off the left needle.

Two new stitches are created on the right needle. You have increased the number of stitches by one. A horizontal bar appears below the added stitch.

To make a bar increase when working on the purl side of your work, purl one stitch on the left needle, but do not slide the original stitch off the left needle. Then insert the right needle into the back of the original stitch, moving the needle through the stitch from back to front. The tip of the right needle is now in front of the left needle. Wrap the yarn around the tip of the right needle once, counterclockwise from back to front. Bring the tip of the right needle and the wrapped yarn back through the stitch away from you and then slide the original stitch off the left needle.

Make a Yarn Over

A *yarn over* is a method of increasing one stitch that leaves a small, decorative hole, called an eyelet, in your work. The hole becomes more noticeable once you work the next row of stitches.

The yarn over method is often used for increasing stitches when working with lacy patterns to create delicate, decorative fabrics. You should not use the yarn over method for increasing stitches unless your project pattern specifies this method.

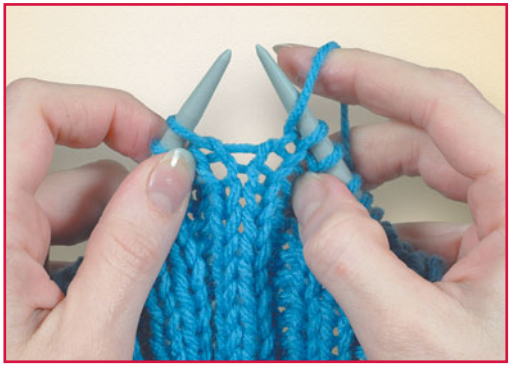
The yarn over method has several variations. The variation you should use depends on the type of stitch that is before and after the yarn over. For example, to increase one stitch between two knit stitches, you can use the standard yarn over (**yo**) variation, which is the most common variation, or the yarn forward (**yf** or **yfwd**) variation. If your pattern instructions specify that you should use a specific method to make a yarn over, you should follow the instructions provided in the pattern.

Yarn Forward (YF or YFWD)

1. Work to where you want to increase by one stitch.
2. Bring the yarn between the needles to the front of your work.
3. Knit the next stitch on the left needle, keeping the yarn at the front of your work. You have increased the number of stitches on the right needle by one.

Yarn Over (YO)

1. Work to where you want to increase by one stitch.
2. Wrap the yarn around the tip of the right needle once, counterclockwise from back to front.
3. Insert the tip of the right needle into the back of the original stitch, from right to left.



Yarn Round Needle (YFRN or YRN)

You make a yarn round needle between a knit and a purl stitch or two purl stitches. This technique is particularly useful to know if you're working in a rib knit pattern.

1 Work to where you want to increase by one stitch.

2 Bring the yarn between the needles to the front of your work.

3 Wrap the yarn around the tip of the right needle once, counterclockwise from front to back.

4 Purl the next stitch on the left needle. You have increased the number of stitches on the right needle by one!

Yarn Over Needle (YON)

You make a yarn over needle between a purl and a knit stitch. Again, this is useful when knitting in a rib knit pattern.

1 Work to where you want to increase by one stitch.

2 Keep the yarn at the front of your work.

3 Knit the next stitch on the left needle, keeping the yarn at the front of your work. You have increased the number of stitches on the right needle by one.

FUN FACT

You can use a combination of yarn over and decreasing one stitch to add a pretty border around just about anything, including scarves, the bottom edge of a hat, or even around baby blankets and afghans. Knit the first stitch in the row, yarn over the next stitch, and then right after the yarn over, knit the next two stitches together—knitting two together "subtracts" the increase from the yarn over, so instead of really increasing, you're just making a pretty little eyelet border all the way along the outside edges. Then simply do the reverse to the last 3 stitches in the row: knit two together, yarn over, and then knit the last stitch in the row. This is a great technique to experiment with and apply to just about anything you like.

Let's Narrow Things Down: Decreasing One Stitch

Just as you will find the need to increase stitches to make a knitted piece wider, you will also have those times when you need to make your knitted piece narrower. This is called *decreasing*. When you decrease one stitch, the number of stitches in the piece becomes fewer, making your work narrower. For example, when knitting a sweater, you create the curve of an armhole or neckline by decreasing stitches.

There are several popular techniques for decreasing one stitch in your knitting. Each technique has a particular use and creates a specific look in your knitted piece. In patterns, the standard abbreviation for a decrease is **dec**.

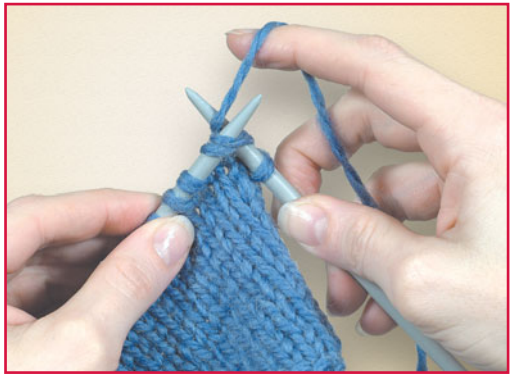
Knit Two Stitches Together

Knitting two stitches together (abbreviated as k2tog) produces stitches that slant to the right, and it is the easiest and most popular technique for decreasing stitches. In most cases, when you knit two stitches together, you knit through the front loops of the stitches, as you would when knitting a single stitch. Knitting two stitches together is often done at the edge of a piece where it will be sewn to another piece.

1 Work to where you want to decrease by one stitch.

2 Insert the tip of the right needle into the front of the first two stitches on the left needle, knitwise from left to right.

3 Wrap the yarn around the tip of the right needle once, counterclockwise from back to front.



4 Wrap the yarn around the tip of the right needle once, counterclockwise from back to front.

5 Slide the original stitches off the left needle. The two stitches become one stitch on the right needle.

To purl stitches together, insert the right needle into the front of the first two stitches on the left needle, purlwise from right to left. Wrap the yarn around the right needle counterclockwise from back to front and then slide the tip of the right needle and the wrapped yarn back through both stitches away from you. Slide the original stitches off the left needle. This technique produces a decrease that slants to the right.

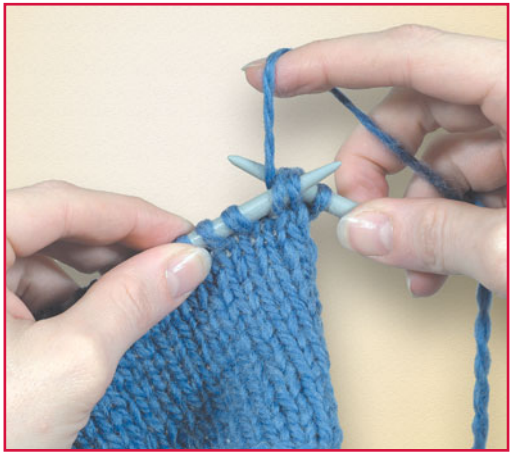
Knit Two Stitches Together Through Back Loop

You can also *knit two stitches together through the back loop* (abbreviated as **k2tog tbl**) to produce stitches that slant to the left. This method twists the stitches, creating an attractive design.

1 Work to where you want to decrease by one stitch.

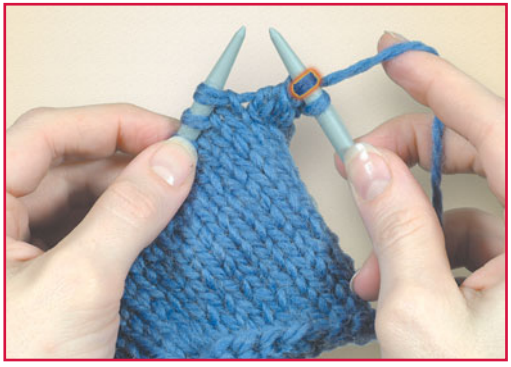
2 Insert the tip of the right needle into the back of the first two stitches on the left needle, from right to left.

3 Wrap the yarn around the tip of the right needle once, counterclockwise from back to front.



4 Slide the tip of the right needle and the wrapped yarn back through both stitches toward you.

5 Slide the original stitches off the left needle. The two stitches become one stitch on the right needle.



Tip

To make a left-slanting decrease when working with purl stitches, insert the right needle into the back of the first two stitches on the left needle, from left to right. Wrap the yarn around the right needle counterclockwise from back to front and then slide the tip of the right needle and the wrapped yarn back through both stitches away from you. Slide the original stitches off the left needle.

Slip Slip Knit

The *slip slip knit* technique (abbreviated as ssk) is another popular method for decreasing one stitch. The slip slip knit technique slants stitches to the left.

This method of decreasing involves slipping two stitches knitwise from the left needle to the right needle and then knitting the two slipped stitches together as a single stitch, which results in a decrease of one stitch.

Decreasing a stitch using the slip slip knit technique is normally performed on the knit side, or right side, of the work.

1 Work to where you want to decrease by one stitch.

2 Insert the tip of the right needle into the front of the first stitch on the left needle, knitwise from left to right.

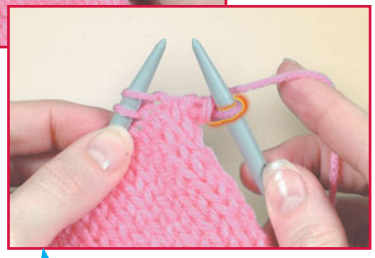
3 Slip the stitch onto the right needle by removing the stitch from the left needle.

4 Repeat steps 2 and 3 for the next stitch on the left needle. Two stitches are now slipped onto the right needle.

5 Insert the tip of the left needle into the front of both slipped stitches, from left to right.

6 Wrap the yarn around the tip of the right needle once, counterclockwise from back to front.

7 Slide the tip of the right needle and the wrapped yarn back through both stitches toward you. One stitch is created from the two slipped stitches.



FUN FACT

You can use the slip slip knit technique to add a decorative touch to your work. By placing the decreases in a visible location, such as two or three stitches from an edge of a sleeve where it will meet the body of a sweater, you will produce a decorative style referred to as *full fashioned*.

Slip One, Knit One, Pass Slipped Stitch Over

The *slip one, knit one, pass slipped stitch over* technique is a method of decreasing that slants stitches to the left. This technique involves slipping one stitch from the left needle to the right, then knitting the next stitch on the left needle. With both the slipped stitch and the knitted stitch on the right needle, the slipped stitch is then lifted over the knitted stitch and dropped off both needles. This causes the slipped stitch to bind around the knitted stitch, decreasing the row by one stitch.

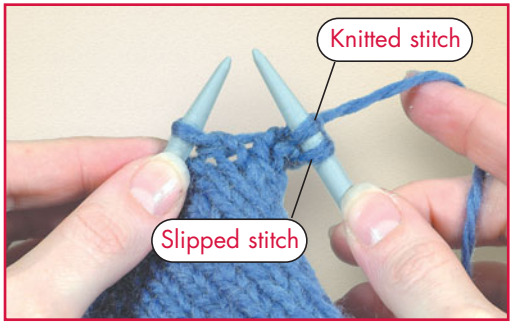
Decreasing a stitch using the slip one, knit one, pass slipped stitch over technique is normally performed on the knit side, or right side, of the work.

The slip one, knit one, pass slipped stitch over technique is usually abbreviated as **SKP** or **skpo**, but you may also see the technique abbreviated as **sl1**, **k1**, **psso**.

1 Work to where you want to decrease by one stitch.

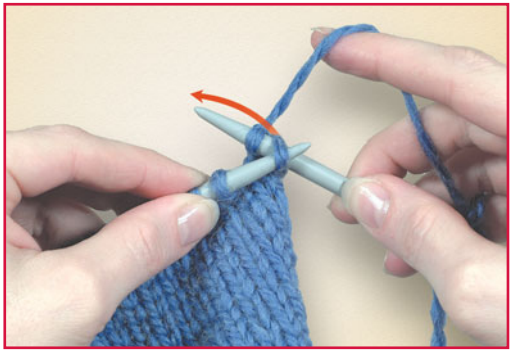
2 Insert the tip of the right needle into the front of the first stitch on the left needle, knitwise from left to right.

3 Slip the stitch onto the right needle by removing the stitch from the left needle. Then knit the next stitch on the left needle.



4 Insert the tip of the left needle into the front of the stitch you slipped onto the right needle, from left to right.

5 Lift the slipped stitch over the stitch you knitted and allow the slipped stitch to drop off both needles.



One stitch is decreased.

You can use the technique of decreasing stitches for more than just narrowing things down in your work. Decreasing stitches at the same end of every other row slants the edge of your work, while decreasing stitches in the middle of your work can produce subtle, decorative details in your projects. If you are following a pattern, the pattern instructions will tell you exactly where to decrease stitches in your project.

Giving Your Knitwear the Slip: Slipping a Stitch

Some patterns will instruct you to slip a stitch, which simply means moving a stitch from the left needle to the right needle without knitting or purling the stitch. There are two ways you can slip a stitch—purlwise or knitwise. To slip a stitch purlwise, you insert the right needle into the front of the stitch as if you were going to purl the stitch (from right to left). To slip a stitch knitwise, you insert the right needle into the stitch as if you were going to knit the stitch (from left to right).

Patterns often use abbreviations for slipping a stitch (**sl st**) or more specifically, slipping a stitch purlwise (**Sl1P**) and slipping a stitch knitwise (**Sl1K**). Some instructions may also use the phrases "slip stitch as if to purl" or "slip stitch as if to knit." If the instructions do not specify one way or the other, you should slip stitches purlwise to avoid twisting the stitches.

Slipping stitches is useful for creating different textured patterns.

Slip a Stitch Purlwise

1 Insert the tip of the right needle into the first stitch on the left needle purlwise, from right to left.

2 Slip the stitch onto the right needle by removing the stitch from the left needle.

Slip a Stitch Knitwise

1 Insert the tip of the right needle into the first stitch on the left needle knitwise, from left to right.

2 Slip the stitch onto the right needle by removing the stitch from the left needle.

Make a Buttonhole

You can create a buttonhole in your knitwear. A horizontal buttonhole requires two rows to complete and is often referred to as a two-row buttonhole. In the first row, you create a gap by binding off (removing) a certain number of stitches in the row. In the following row, you cast on (add) new stitches overtop of the gap, leaving a hole between the rows.

The size of the buttons and the thickness of the yarn you use will determine how many stitches you need to bind off and cast on to create a buttonhole. For example, you need to bind off more stitches if you use larger buttons. Most knitting patterns provide directions for creating a buttonhole.

When you make a buttonhole, your goal should be to create a buttonhole that is not too loose for the button. Knitted fabric is flexible, so if a buttonhole is too loose, the button may slip out.

In this example, we create a buttonhole that is 3 stitches wide.

1 With the right side of your work facing you, work to where you want to create a buttonhole.

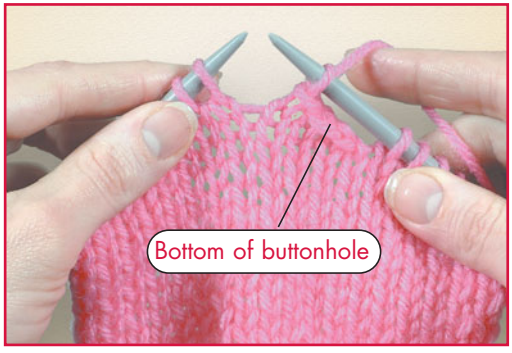
2 Knit the next two stitches on the left needle.

3 Insert the tip of the left needle into the front of the first stitch you knitted in step 2, from left to right.

4 Using the left needle, lift the stitch over the second stitch you knitted and allow the stitch to drop off both needles.

5 Knit the next stitch on the left needle.

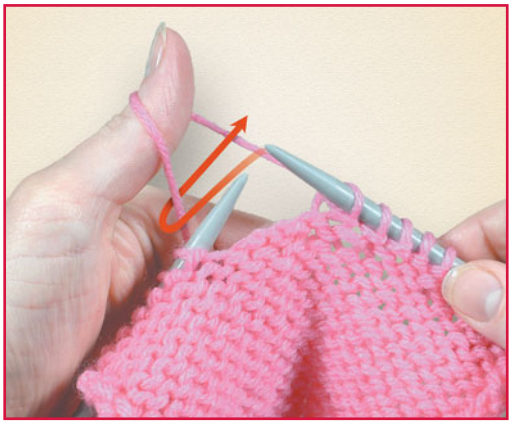
6 Repeat steps 3 to 5 twice, leaving out step 5 the last time you repeat the steps.



7 Continue working to the end of the row.

8 Work the next row of stitches until you reach the edge of the buttonhole.

9 Wrap the strand of yarn connected to the ball around your left thumb, clockwise from front to back and use the fingers of your left hand to hold the strand loosely in your palm.



10 Insert the tip of the right needle between your thumb and the strand of yarn, from bottom to top.

11 Remove your thumb from the loop of yarn and gently pull on the strand of yarn to tighten the stitch on the right needle.

12 Repeat steps 9 to 11 twice.

13 Continue working to the end of the row. You have now created a horizontal buttonhole.

Make sure the buttons you choose have rounded edges and smooth surfaces. If you use buttons with elaborate designs or rough edges, they may snag on the yarn in your garment. Larger buttons are ideal for use with heavier yarn weights while smaller buttons work well with lightweight yarns.

Flourishes and Final Touches

The addition of fringe, a tassel, or a pompom can turn a simple, hum-drum hat or scarf into a totally cute item that your friends will wish they had! And better yet, they are really, really easy to make.

Make a Fringe

Adding a fringe to a knitted piece is a quick and easy way to enhance the appearance of a piece, such as a scarf, shawl, or afghan. To add a fringe to the edge of a knitted piece, all you need is yarn and a crochet hook.

You can customize the look of your fringe to suit your needs. The thickness and length of the fringe is determined by how many strands of yarn you use and the length of the strands. Your fringe can be made from one color of yarn or you can use several different colors to create a multicolored fringe. If you have leftover yarn from a project, making a fringe to add to the project is a good way to use the remaining yarn.

Once you have completed your fringe, you can trim the fringe to create a neat edge.

1 Cut strands of yarn slightly longer than double the length of the fringe you want to make. The number of strands you cut depends on how thick you want the fringe to be.

2 Line up the strands of yarn.

3 Fold the strands of yarn in half.

4 With the right side of the knitted piece facing you, insert the crochet hook at the edge of your knitted piece where you want to add the fringe, from the wrong side to the right side.

5 With the crochet hook, catch the strands of yarn at the fold.

6 Use the crochet hook to slide the strands of yarn through the knitted piece. The yarn forms a loop on the wrong side of the knitted piece.

7 Remove the crochet hook from the yarn, and use your fingers to bring the ends of the yarn through the loop.

8 Pull the ends of the yarn to secure the fringe to the knitted piece.

9 Straighten and trim the fringe.

10 Repeat steps 1 to 9 for each section of fringe you want to add to the edge of your knitted piece.

Make a Tassel

Tassels are fun to make and can add a decorative element to your knitting projects. You can add tassels to many items, including blanket corners, scarves, and the tops of hats. In addition to yarn and scissors, you will need a tapestry needle and a piece of cardboard to make a tassel.

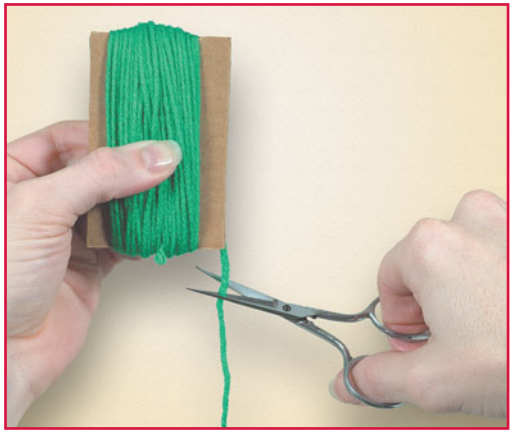
Your tassel can be made from one color of yarn or you can use several different colors to create a multicolored tassel. If you have leftover yarn, making tassels to add to your projects is a good way to use the yarn.

You can make your tassel as long and as full as you like. Once you have completed your tassel, you can trim the bottom of the tassel to create a neat and even edge.

1 Cut a rectangle out of cardboard. The rectangle should be the same length as the tassel you want to make.

2 Wind the yarn around the rectangle. The more yarn you wind, the fuller the tassel will be.

3 When you finish winding the yarn, cut the yarn from the ball.



4 Cut two long strands of yarn from a ball.

5 Thread the first strand of yarn through a tapestry needle.

6 Insert the tapestry needle under all the loops of yarn on the rectangle.

7 Remove the tapestry needle and tie the strand of yarn into a tight knot, leaving ends of equal length.

8 Remove the cardboard rectangle.

9 Wrap the second strand of yarn tightly around the tassel several times about half an inch from the top of the tassel and tie the strand into a tight knot.

10 Thread the ends of yarn through a tapestry needle.

11 Insert the tapestry needle through the tassel from top to bottom.

FUN FACT

You can also use a tassel maker to create a tassel. Tassel makers are inexpensive and can be found at most knitting stores.

12 Remove the tapestry needle.

13 Cut the loops of yarn at the bottom of the tassel.

14 Trim the tassel to create an even edge.

You use the two strands of yarn dangling from the top of the tassel to attach it to a knitted piece. Thread one strand of yarn through a tapestry needle and insert the tapestry needle from the right side to the wrong side of your project. Repeat this process for the second strand of yarn, inserting the tapestry needle one or two stitches away from the first strand. Tie the strands of yarn into a tight knot on the wrong side of your project to secure the tassel firmly to the knitted piece.

Make a Pompom

Pompoms are easy to make and are ideal for decorating hats, sweaters, and slippers. You can also use pompoms to make soft toys for children. To make a pompom, all you need is yarn, cardboard, and a pair of scissors.

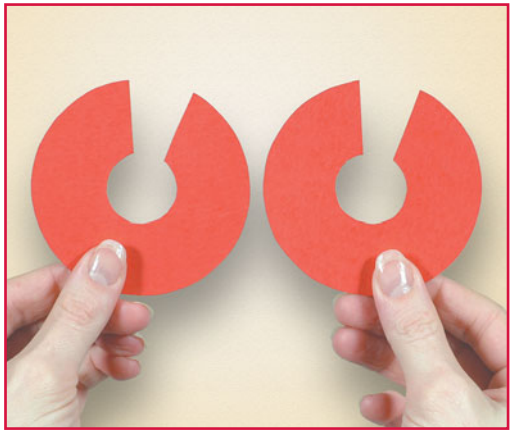
Some types of yarn are better for making pompoms than other types of yarn. For example, wool will create a fuller, fluffier pompom than cotton. Your pompom can be made from one color of yarn or you can use several different colors to create a multicolored pompom. Making pompoms is a great way to use up any leftover yarn you may have.

You can make your pompoms as large and as full as you like. Once you complete a pompom, you can trim any strands of yarn that are sticking out to create a smooth, even pompom.

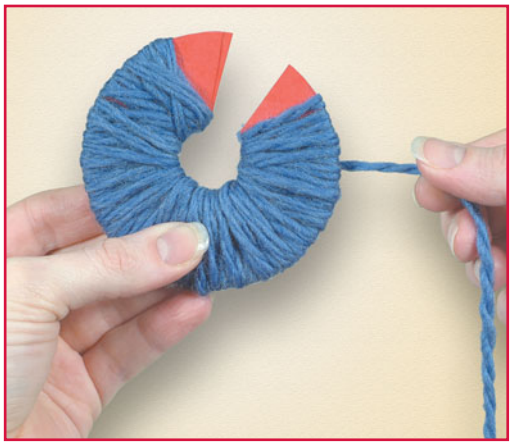
1 Cut two circles out of cardboard. The circles should be the same size and slightly larger than the pompom you want to make.

2 Cut a small section out of each circle.

3 Cut a hole out of the center of each circle.

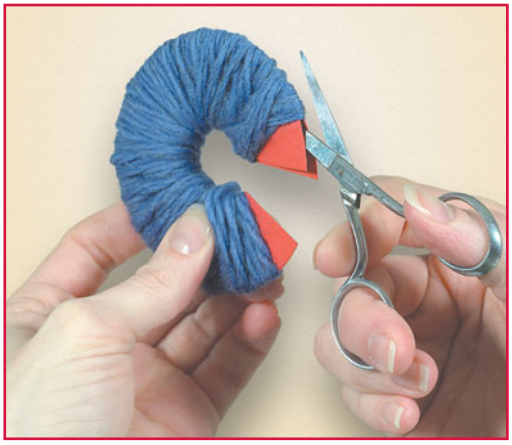


4 Holding the two circles together, wind the yarn around the circles until the yarn covers the circles. The more yarn you wind, the fuller the pompom will be.

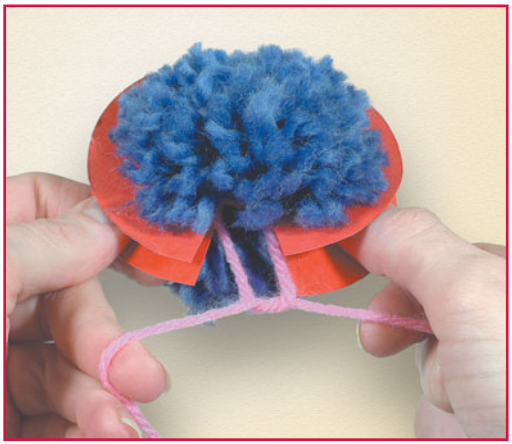


5 When you finish winding the yarn, cut the yarn from the ball.

6 Insert one blade of the scissors between the circles and cut the loops of yarn all the way around the outside edge of the circles.



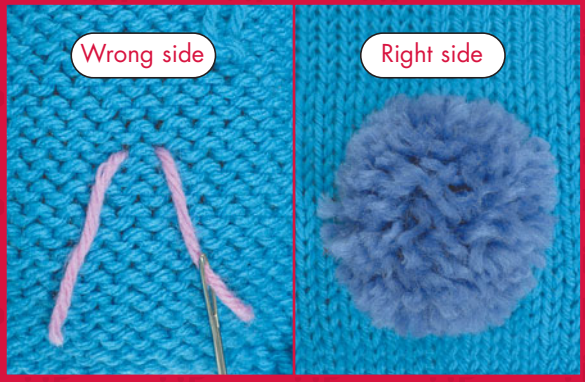
7 Separate the circles slightly and tie a long strand of yarn tightly between the two circles.



8 Remove the circles.

9 Fluff and trim the pompom.

You use the two long strands of yarn dangling from the pompom to attach the pompom to a knitted piece. Thread one strand of yarn through a tapestry needle and insert the tapestry needle from the right side to the wrong side of your project. Repeat this process for the second strand of yarn, inserting the tapestry needle one or two stitches away from the first strand. Tie the strands of yarn into a tight knot on the wrong side of your project to secure the pompom firmly to the knitted piece.



FUN FACT

You can also use a pompom maker to create pompoms. Pompom makers are inexpensive and can be found at most knitting stores.

CHAPTER 4

© Mark Urschel 2009

Mistakes happen. To everybody. Even the most experienced knitters drop a stitch or miss a pattern change now and then. Luckily, most mistakes are fairly easy to correct, albeit a bit time consuming. In this chapter, you learn two ways to pick up a dropped stitch and how to rip out stitches if you notice a mistake way down in your knitting that you need to correct.

Fixing Your Mistakes

Pick Up a Dropped Stitch in the Row Below

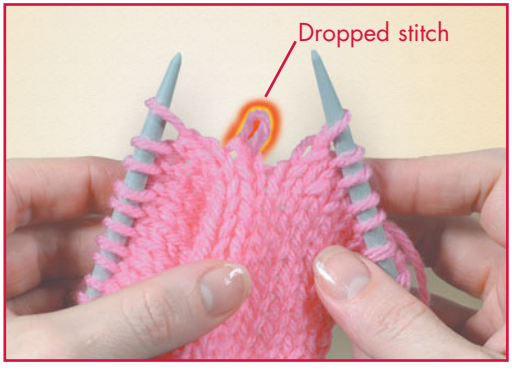
If you count the stitches on your knitting needle and find you are missing a stitch, you may have dropped a stitch. A *dropped stitch* is a stitch that has slipped off the end of your needle. (By the way, especially in your early days of learning, you should stop every 10 rows or so and recount your stitches to make sure you have the right number. Just in case.) A dropped stitch is easy to correct when the stitch was dropped on the previous row and has not unraveled further down in the project.

When you find a dropped stitch in your work, use a safety pin to secure the stitch. The safety pin will prevent the dropped stitch from unraveling any further while you work your way across the next row to pick up the stitch.

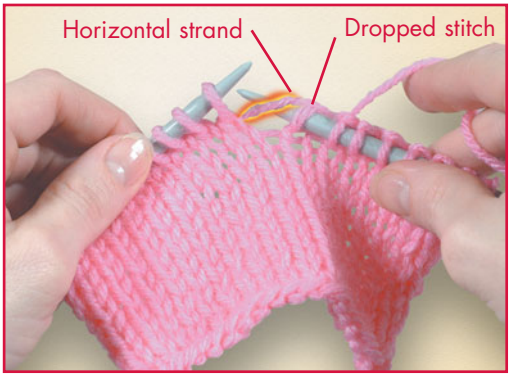
As a general rule, whether you need to pick up a dropped knit stitch or purl stitch depends on which side of your work is facing you. If the knit side is facing you, you will usually pick up a knit stitch. If the purl side is facing you, you will usually pick up a purl stitch.

If you find you are missing a stitch, you can perform the following steps to pick up a dropped knitted stitch in the row below.

1. Work to where the knitted dropped stitch is located.
2. Insert the right needle into the dropped stitch from front to back to help prevent the stitch from unraveling any further.



3 Insert the tip of the right needle under the horizontal strand of yarn behind the dropped stitch, from front to back.



4 Insert the left needle into the front of the dropped stitch, from left to right.

5 Lift the dropped stitch over the horizontal strand of yarn and off the tip of the right needle. Allow the stitch to fall off the left needle. You have created a new stitch on the right needle.

6 Insert the left needle through the new stitch on the right needle from right to left and then move the stitch onto the left needle.

To pick up a dropped purl stitch in the row below, perform steps 1 to 6, except insert the tip of the right needle from back to front in steps 2 and 3. The horizontal strand of yarn should be in front of the dropped stitch.

Pick Up a Dropped Stitch Several Rows Below

If you find that you dropped a stitch that then slipped down several rows below in your knitting, you can still fix it without having to unravel all your knitting to where it dropped down to.

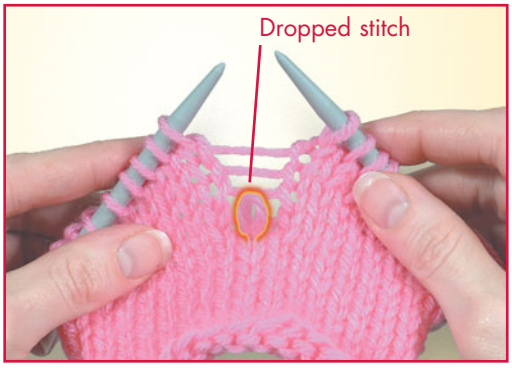
You can tell where a stitch has dropped in your work by looking at your knitting project. If a series of horizontal strands of yarn appears in your project, you know a stitch has dropped through several rows. Each horizontal strand represents a row you have completed.

You can use a crochet hook to pick up a dropped stitch located several rows below where you are currently working. You should choose a crochet hook that is no larger than the knitting needles you are using. The crochet hook should be large enough to catch the strand of yarn, but not so large that it stretches your stitches when you insert the crochet hook through a dropped stitch.

After you have picked up a dropped stitch, you should gently pull your knitting project in several directions to ensure the picked-up stitch takes on the same appearance as the rest of the stitches in your project.

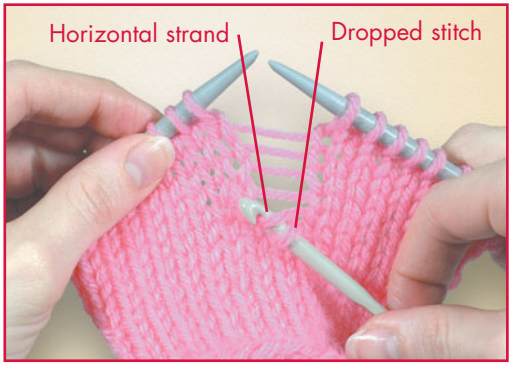
If you find you are missing a stitch, you can perform the following steps to pick up a dropped knitted stitch located several rows below.

1 Work to where the dropped knitted stitch is located.



2 Insert the crochet hook through the dropped stitch, from front to back.

3 Place the crochet hook under the first horizontal strand of yarn behind the dropped stitch and catch the yarn in the hook.



4 Pull the horizontal strand of yarn through the dropped stitch. You have created a new stitch on the crochet hook.

5 Repeat steps 3 and 4 for each horizontal strand of yarn above the dropped stitch.

6 When you reach the current row that you are knitting, insert the tip of the left knitting needle through the stitch on the crochet hook, from front to back, moving the stitch off the crochet hook and onto the left needle. Hurray! You're back in business!

To pick up a purl stitch that dropped several rows below, follow these steps:

1 Work to where the dropped purl stitch is located.

2 Turn your work around so that the knit side of your work is facing you.

3 Perform steps 2 to 6 as shown, except insert the tip of the right needle through the stitch on the crochet hook from front to back in step 6.

4 Turn your work around so that you can continue purling.

Ripping Out Stitches

When you're learning to knit, it is easy to make mistakes, especially when you're working with new patterns. Sometimes you knit when you should purl, or knit too many knits and not enough purls. When you find you've made a mistake like this, you can unravel, or *rip out*, your stitches until you get back to the location of the mistake. You can then fix the mistake and continue knitting.

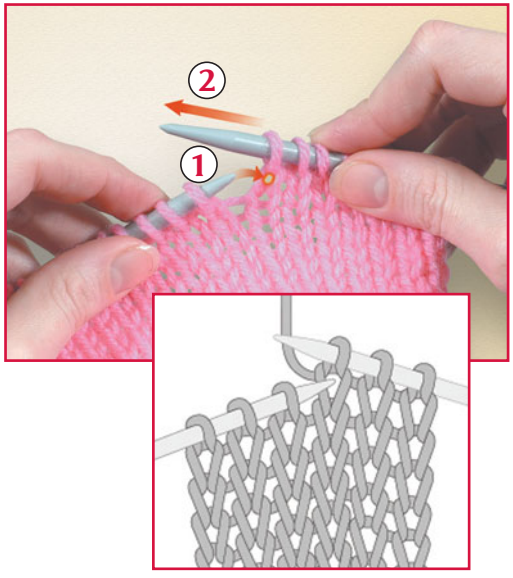
You can rip out stitches one stitch at a time or row by row. The point at which you discover your mistake will determine the most efficient way to rip out the stitches. If you are still on the same row where the mistake occurred, rip out one stitch at a time. If the mistake was made several rows before, it will be faster to rip out stitches row by row. You may want to mark the mistake with a safety pin to help prevent you from ripping out more rows than you need to. To avoid damaging your work or ruining the yarn, unravel the stitches gently.

When replacing your stitches on the needle, you should make sure none of the stitches are twisted when you place them back on.

Stitch by Stitch

1 To fix a mistake you made in the current row, insert the left needle into the stitch directly below the first stitch on the right needle, from front to back. Make sure you keep the strand of yarn at the back of your work.

2 Gently pull the first stitch off the right needle.



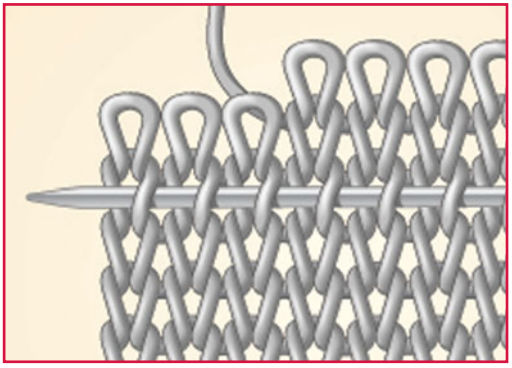
3 Pull the yarn attached to the ball to pull the excess yarn through the stitch.

4 Repeat steps 1 to 3 until you reach the mistake. Then correct the mistake and continue knitting.

Row by Row

If you notice a mistake way down in your knitting, it will be faster to rip out the stitches row by row instead of one stitch at a time.

1 Using a smaller size needle than you're using to work your project, weave the needle in and out of each stitch in the row below the row containing the mistake. From right to left, pass the needle under the right side and over the left side of each stitch.

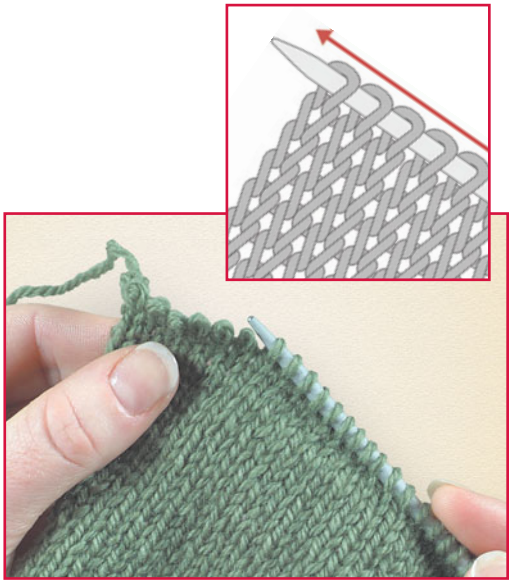


2 Gently pull the yarn attached to the ball away from the stitches to unravel each row until you unravel the row containing the mistake.

3 When you get to the location where you placed the needle, the first row of stitches after the mistake will be on the needle. Now carefully pull out the smaller needle that marked that row.

4 Hold your work in your left hand, with the yarn attached to the ball coming from the top left edge of your work.

5 Starting with the stitch at the right edge of your work, insert the needle into the first stitch from back to front.



6 Repeat step 5 until all the stitches are on the needle. Then re-knit the stitches you unraveled. It is especially important to make sure the stitches are not twisted when you place them on the needle.

© Mark Urschel 2009

CHAPTER 5

© Mark Urschel 2009

When you have finished knitting all the pieces in your project, there are several finishing touches you may need to perform to complete the project. This chapter teaches you how to weave in yarn ends and attach knitted pieces together. You will also learn different techniques for blocking knitted pieces, which helps you ensure that the knitted pieces have the correct dimensions before you sew them together.

Putting It All Together: Finishing Your Knitted Projects

Block Knitted Pieces

Before sewing together the knitted pieces of a project, you should block each piece. *Blocking* knitted pieces helps you even out stitches, flatten curling edges, and make sure that the pieces have the correct dimensions. When blocking a knitted piece, you can make minor adjustments to the shape and size of a piece.

There are two main types of blocking—wet blocking and steam blocking. When wet blocking, a knitted piece is soaked in water, reshaped, and then allowed to dry thoroughly. Wet blocking is suitable for knitted pieces made from colorfast yarns and fuzzy yarns. Wet blocking is also the best blocking method for garments with highly textured patterns.

You should check the yarn label for the yarn you used to knit your pieces. If the yarn label indicates that you can wash the fabric in water, you can safely use the wet blocking method for your knitted pieces. If your knitted pieces are composed of different types of yarns, use the blocking method suitable for the most delicate type of yarn used. To ensure that wet blocking will not ruin your knitted pieces, you can first try wet blocking your gauge swatch.

When blocking a knitted piece, you use rust-proof pins to fasten the piece to a flat, padded surface such as an ironing board or a flat surface covered with a towel. The pins help keep the knitted piece in its proper shape and size until it dries.

Wet Blocking

To wet block a knitted piece, you will need a basin or sink, a towel, a flat surface that is padded or covered with a towel, rust-proof pins, and a tape measure.

1 Fill a basin or sink with cool water and completely wet the knitted piece you want to block. Do not wring or rub the knitted piece.

2 Drain the water from the basin and gently press on the knitted piece to remove the excess water.

3 Lift the knitted piece out of the basin without allowing any part of the piece to stretch.

4 Spread out the knitted piece right-side up on a clean, dry towel without stretching the piece and fold the ends of the towel over the knitted piece.

5 Loosely roll up the towel. If you roll the towel too tightly, it may cause creases in your knitted piece.

6 Gently press on the rolled towel to absorb water from the knitted piece.

7 Unroll the towel.

8 Lay the knitted piece on a flat surface that is padded or covered with a clean, dry towel.

9 Starting at the center of the knitted piece, spread it out to the correct dimensions as specified in the pattern instructions.

Tip

The knitted piece may take a day or more to dry completely. You should not unpin or move the piece until it is dry.

10 To keep it at its correct dimensions, use rust-proof pins to pin the knitted piece to the padding or towel.

© Mark Urschel 2009

Steam Blocking

When you steam block, a knitted piece is pinned to its specified shape and size, covered with a damp cloth and very gently pressed with an iron. Steam blocking is quicker and easier than wet blocking.

Steam blocking is suitable for knitted pieces made from yarns such as cotton and wool. Knitted pieces made from synthetic or fuzzy yarns should not be steam blocked. Always check the pattern instructions or the yarn label to see whether an iron can be used on the yarn you used to knit the piece.

Steam blocking should not be used on knitted pieces with ribbed or highly textured patterns. Even gently holding an iron on such pieces can squash textures, distort details, and change the appearance of the patterns. Ribbing may also become less stretchy if even gently pressed with an iron. Knitted pieces with highly textured patterns should be wet blocked instead.

Tip

You can use just the steam from a steam iron for delicate yarns and knitted items you could distort by holding an iron on the fabric. First, pin a knitted piece to its correct dimensions by performing steps 1 to 3 below. Then hold the steam iron several inches above the knitted piece and use the steam from the iron to dampen the piece. Make sure you do not actually touch the steam iron to your knitted piece. After steaming the entire piece, allow the piece to dry thoroughly before unpinning the piece.

To steam block a knitted piece, you will need a flat surface that is padded or covered with a towel, rust-proof pins, a tape measure, a damp cloth, and an iron.

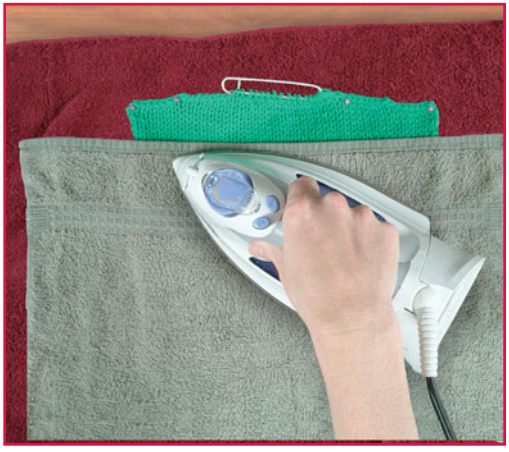
1 Lay the knitted piece you want to block right-side up on a flat surface that is padded or covered with a towel.

2 Starting at the center of the knitted piece, spread out the piece to the correct dimensions as specified in the pattern instructions.

3 To keep the knitted piece at its correct dimensions, use rust-proof pins to pin the knitted piece to the padding or towel.

4 Cover the knitted piece with a damp cloth.

5 Using an iron set to the correct temperature, lightly hold the iron on one area of the knitted piece for a few seconds.



6 Lift the iron and then move the iron to the next area you want to block.

7 Repeat steps 5 and 6 until you have blocked the entire knitted piece. When you have finished blocking the entire knitted piece, leave the piece pinned to the surface until the piece is completely dry.

Sew Knitted Pieces Together

After you finish knitting all the pieces in your project, the last thing you have to do is sew the pieces together, known as sewing seams or seaming. There are three commonly used stitches for sewing knitted pieces together—mattress stitch, backstitch, and whip stitch.

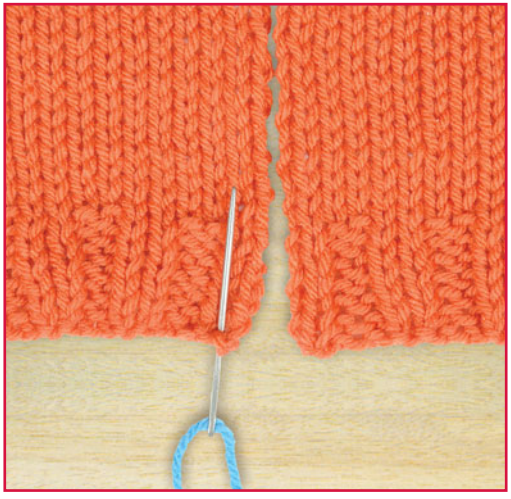
Using the Mattress Stitch

The mattress stitch, also called the invisible seam, is often the best stitch to use for seaming garments because it produces a flexible, almost undetectable seam. To use the mattress stitch, your knitted pieces should have approximately the same number of rows. Before you start, you should align the rows in the knitted pieces. You can use straight pins to hold the knitted pieces in place as you sew. Since the mattress stitch allows you to join knitted pieces row by row, this seaming method helps conceal any uneven stitches on the edges of your work.

When using the mattress stitch, sometimes it is easier to lay the pieces out on a pillow (or something similar to a pillow) on your lap, especially for a beginner. The pillow is firm enough to sew against, but the fabric will kind of "grab" the knitted pieces so that you can more easily see what you are doing. (Just don't pick a knitted pillow! You don't want to accidentally sew your pieces to it.)

When using the mattress stitch, the right side of your work faces you, allowing you to see how the seam will look when finished. You can later weave in the yarn ends left over from sewing the seam.

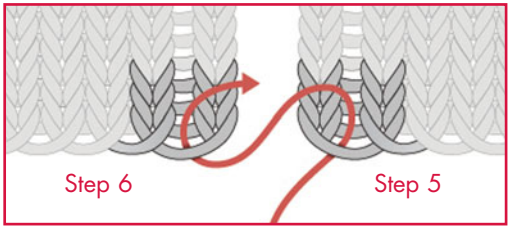
1. Place the two knitted pieces you want to sew together side by side with the right sides facing you, the bottom edges at the bottom, and the rows lined up.
2. Cut a strand of yarn long enough to sew the knitted pieces together.
3. Thread the strand of yarn through a tapestry needle, leaving a tail approximately 6 inches long.



We use a different color of yarn to sew the knitted pieces together to more clearly show the example in these photos. You should use the same yarn you used to knit the pieces.

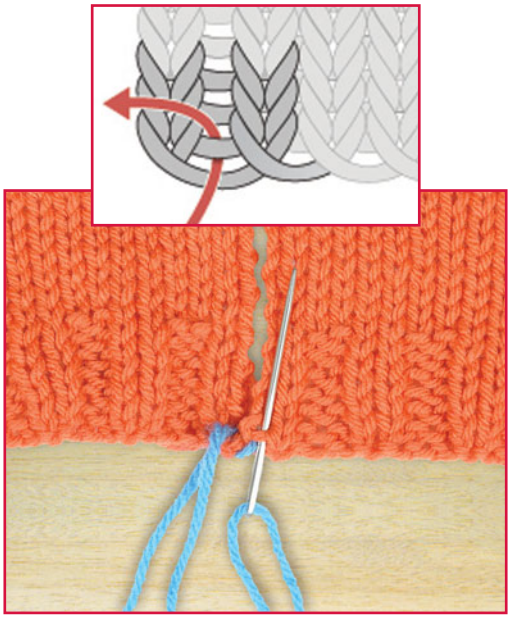
4 On the bottom right corner of the left knitted piece, insert the needle between the two bottom corner stitches, from back to front. Then pull the yarn through.

5 On the bottom left corner of the right knitted piece, insert the needle between the two bottom corner stitches, from back to front. Then pull the yarn through.



6 On the bottom right corner of the left knitted piece, insert the needle between the two bottom corner stitches again, from back to front. Then pull the yarn through to secure the yarn.

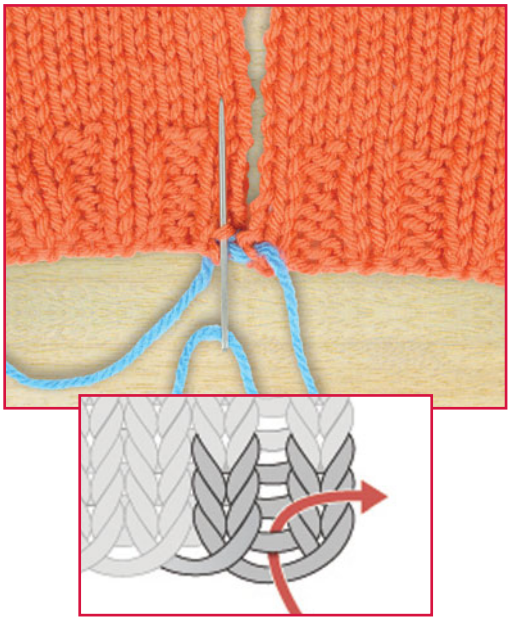
7 On the bottom left corner of the right knitted piece, insert the needle just below the horizontal strand of yarn that connects the first two stitches, from front to back.



To help you see the horizontal strand of yarn that connects the two stitches, gently pull the stitches away from each other.

8 Bring the tip of the needle back to the front of the knitted piece, just above the same horizontal strand of yarn. Then pull the yarn through.

9 On the bottom right corner of the left knitted piece, insert the needle just below the horizontal strand of yarn that connects the first two stitches, from front to back.



10 Bring the tip of the needle back to the front of the knitted piece, just above the same horizontal strand of yarn. Then pull the yarn through.

11 Repeat steps 7 to 10, moving up one row at a time on each knitted piece, until you sew the entire edge.

If a knitted piece has a long tail, you can use the tail for sewing a seam using the mattress stitch. Position the knitted pieces as described in step 1, with the tail you will use to sew the pieces attached to the bottom left corner of the right knitted piece. Thread the end of the tail through a tapestry needle and then perform steps 4 to 11 to sew the knitted pieces together.

Using the Backstitch

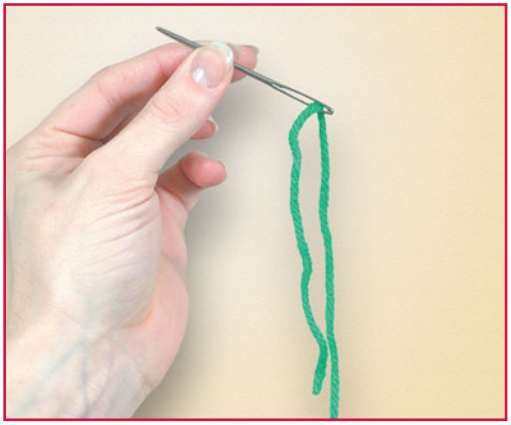
The backstitch is an ideal stitch to use when you are sewing curved edges together, such as attaching a sleeve to the body of a sweater. Compared to the mattress stitch, the backstitch produces a stronger, less flexible, and more noticeable seam.

When using the backstitch, you hold the knitted pieces together with the right sides facing each other and the edges lined up. You may want to pin the pieces together to make sure they do not move while you sew the seam. You sew the seam from right to left, using a strand of the same yarn you used to knit the pieces. You can later weave in the yarn ends left over from sewing the seam.

> The backstitch produces a thick seam and should be used only when sewing together knitted pieces made with lightweight yarn. You should not use the backstitch when working with medium-to-heavy or heavyweight yarn.

1 Cut a strand of yarn long enough to sew the knitted pieces together.

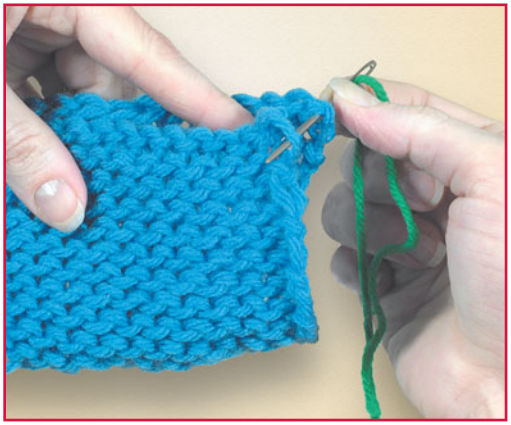
2 Thread the strand of yarn through a tapestry needle, leaving a tail approximately 6 inches long.



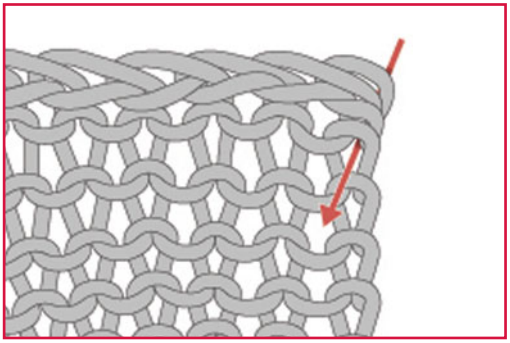
> We use a different color of yarn to sew the knitted pieces together to more clearly show the example. You should use the same yarn you used to knit the pieces.

3 Hold the two knitted pieces you want to sew together with the right sides facing each other and the edges lined up. Make sure the edges you want to sew together are at the top.

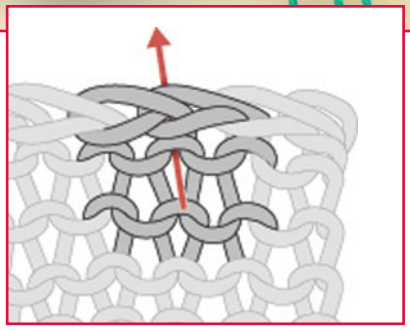
4 At the top right corner of both knitted pieces, insert the needle through the first stitch, from back to front. Then pull the yarn through.



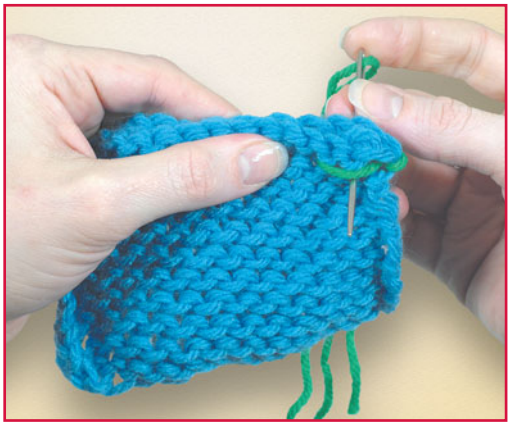
5 Bring the needle and yarn to the right of the knitted pieces and then repeat step 4 to secure the yarn.



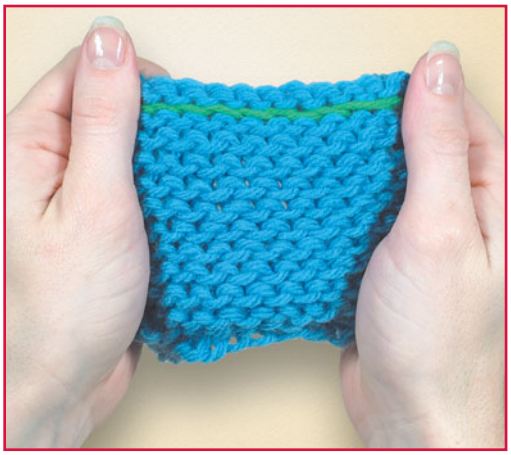
6 On the front knitted piece, insert the needle two stitches to the left and through both knitted pieces, from front to back. Then pull the yarn through.



7 On the back knitted piece, insert the needle one stitch to the right and through both knitted pieces, from back to front. Then pull the yarn through.



8 Repeat steps 6 and 7 until you have sewed the entire edge.



If it looks like there are holes between the knitted pieces you sewed together, you may have inserted the needle more than two stitches to the left in step 6, making the stitches in your seam too large. If you notice holes between the knitted pieces, you should pull out the stitches and sew the seam again.

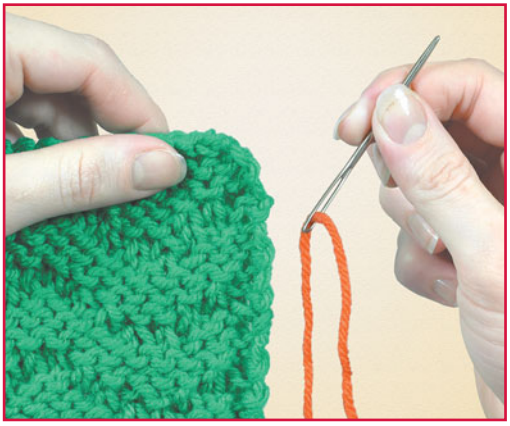
Using the Whip Stitch

You can use the whip stitch, also called overcasting, to sew your knitted pieces together. The whip stitch is often used when you need a strong seam, such as when creating knitted bags or purses. The whip stitch creates a bulky seam and is not commonly used to join knitted pieces of a garment.

When using the whip stitch, you normally hold your knitted pieces with the right sides facing each other and the edges lined up. You can pin the pieces together to make sure they do not move while you sew the seam. You sew the seam from right to left, using a strand of the same yarn you used to knit the pieces. After you complete the seam, there will be ends of yarn hanging from your project. You can later weave the yarn ends into your project.

1 Cut a strand of yarn long enough to sew the knitted pieces together.

2 Thread the strand of yarn through a tapestry needle, leaving a tail approximately 6 inches long.

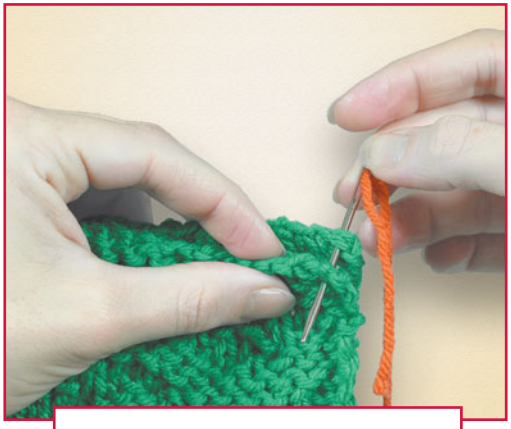


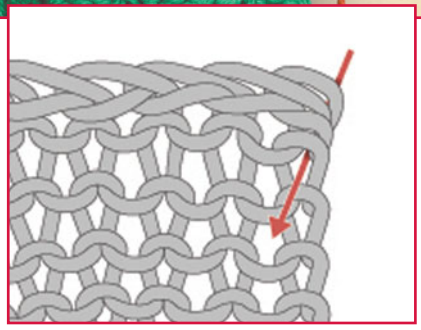
Tip

We use a different color of yarn to sew the knitted pieces together to more clearly show the example. You should use the same yarn you used to knit the pieces.

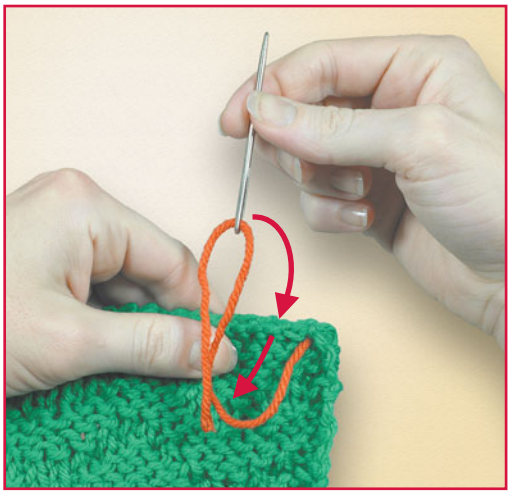
3 Hold the two knitted pieces you want to sew together with the right sides facing each other and the edges lined up. Make sure the edges you want to sew together are at the top.

4 At the top right corner of both knitted pieces, insert the needle through the first stitch, from back to front. Then pull the yarn through.



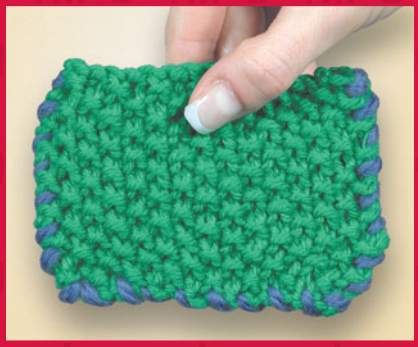


5 Bring the needle and yarn over the top edges of the knitted pieces.



6 Repeat steps 4 and 5, moving one stitch to the left each time, until you have sewed the entire edge.

You can use the whip stitch to create an attractive, decorative seam on the right side of your fabric. For maximum effect, you can use a thick yarn in a color that contrasts with the color of your knitted pieces. Perform the steps below, except hold the two knitted pieces you want to sew together with the wrong sides facing each other in step 3.



Weave in Yarn Ends

You're almost done! After you finish knitting, blocking, and sewing seams, the last thing you need to do is conceal all the dangling tails of yarn left over from casting on stitches, binding off stitches, and starting any new balls of yarn. *Weaving in* yarn ends allows you to incorporate the loose ends of yarn seamlessly into your knitted fabric.

You can weave yarn ends at the edge of your work vertically into the sides of your fabric or you can weave yarn ends in the middle of your work horizontally across your fabric. Weaving yarn ends horizontally is slightly more secure than weaving yarn ends vertically and is great for yarn ends left when you started a new yarn color.

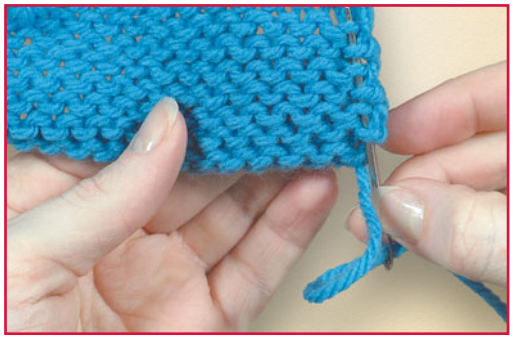
If a knot where you added a new ball of yarn is not on a side edge, you may want to untie the knot before weaving in the yarn ends to keep the knot from being uncomfortable when the piece is worn. Otherwise, leave knots tied to help ensure the fabric does not unravel when washed.

As you weave in yarn ends, you should check often that there are no bulges or yarn ends showing through on the right side of the fabric.

Weaving Yarn Ends into the Sides

1 Thread the yarn end through a tapestry needle.

2 Insert the tapestry needle through the loops along the edge of your knitted piece.

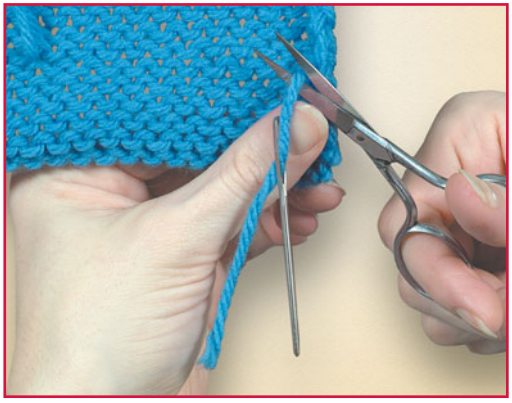


Tip

If your yarn is slippery, insert the needle through the loops in one direction, reverse the direction of the needle, skip a loop and then insert the needle through the loops in the opposite direction to weave in the yarn end more securely.

3 Cut the end of the yarn close to the surface of your work.

4 Gently stretch your work in each direction to pull the yarn end into the work.



5 Repeat steps 1 to 4 for each yarn end you want to weave into the sides of your work.

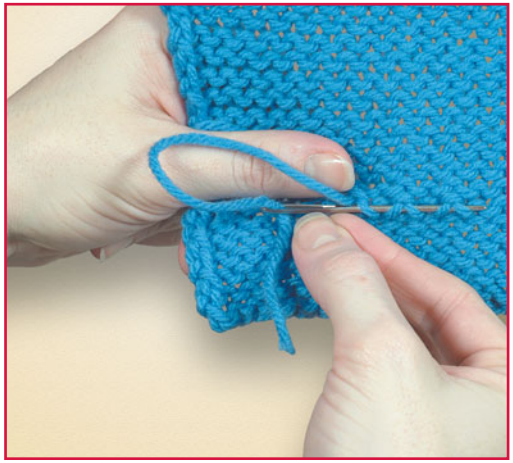
Tip

You should weave each yarn end in the opposite direction from the last yarn end you weaved.

Weaving Yarn Ends Across Your Work

1 Thread the yarn end through a tapestry needle.

2 Weave the tapestry needle in and out of the lower bumps of the purl stitches.



If your yarn is slippery, weave in the yarn end in one direction and then back in the opposite direction to weave the yarn end in more securely.

3 Cut the end of the yarn close to the surface of your work.

4 Gently stretch the work in each direction to pull the yarn end into the work.

5 Repeat steps 1 to 4 for each yarn end you want to weave across your work.

You should weave each yarn end in the opposite direction from the last yarn end you weaved so that you don't have a raised, bumpy spot in your fabric.

© Mark Urschel 2009

THE PROJECTS

© Mark Urschel 2009

Now that you've learned the basic knitting techniques, it is finally time to create an actual knitted project! And remember: The projects illustrated here show you the "nuts and bolts" of these techniques. You can let your creativity run wild when you choose yarns, apply finishing and decorative touches, and even when you choose to make some of these projects for your friends and family. As you'll see, the "kid knitter" for this book found a way to make a few of these projects her own by choosing different yarns and colors than what the actual projects call for here. The sky (and your imagination) is the limit!

Fun and Fabulous Projects

Project 1
Ribby Hat and Scarf

Project 2
Cotton Candy Scarf

Project 3
Checkered Cloth

Project 4
Striped Hat

Project 5
Little Sweetheart Purse

Project 6
Decorative Pillow

Project 7
Cell Phone Cozy

PROJECT 1

Courtesy of Jennifer Burrell Photography

Ribby Hat and Scarf

SKILLS

Cast on, page 32
Knit stitch, page 34
Purl stitch, page 38
Bind off, page 50
Making a rib, page 46
Decreasing stitches, page 63
Making a pompom, page 74
Weaving in ends, page 98
Sewing seams, page 90

MATERIALS

Bernat Softee Chunky Twist
(80 gr/128 yds; 100% Acrylic)
MC: (#606 Tango Twists) 3 balls
Size 6mm (US 10) knitting needles or size required to achieve gauge

GAUGE

16 stitches and 16 rows = 4 inches (10 cm) in pattern (When making this gauge, simply K4, P4 on every row.)

ABBREVIATIONS

K = knit; RS = right side; P = Purl;
K2tog = knit two stitches together

Courtesy of Jennifer Burrell Photography

INSTRUCTIONS

SCARF

Cast on 28 stitches.

Row 1: K4 * P4. K4; repeat from * to end of row.

Row 2: P4 * K4. P4; repeat from * to end of row.

Rows 1 and 2 form a rib knit pattern.

Continue in pattern until work from beginning measures 50"/127cm.

Bind off.

Make 4 pompoms and attach one to each corner of the scarf.

HAT

Cast on 74 stitches.

Work 2 rows of the ribbing pattern given for the scarf for 1.5"/3cm, ending with RS facing for next row.

Continue in Stockinette stitch until work from beginning measures 5"/12.75cm, ending with RS facing for next row.

Next:

Row 1: (RS) K2. * K7. K2tog; repeat from * to end.

Row 2 and every alt row: Purl

Row 3: K2 * K6. K2tog; repeat from * to end of row.

Row 5: K2 * K5. K2tog; repeat from * to end of row.

Row 7: K2 * K4. K2tog; repeat from * to end row.

Row 9: K2 * K3. K2tog; repeat from * to end of row.

Row 11: K2 * K2. K2tog; repeat from * to end of row.

Row 13: K2. * K1. K2tog; repeat from * to end of row.

Row 15: K2tog to end of row.

Bind off.

Draw the yarn tail through the last loop and pull tight. Sew seam. Make a slightly larger pom-pom than the scarf and sew it to the top of your hat.

Tip

You'll need a row counter for this project.

FUN FACT

Multi-colored yarn like the yarn used in this project is called *variegated yarn*.

© Mark Urschel 2009

PROJECT 2

Cotton Candy Scarf

SKILLS

Cast on, page 32
Knit stitch, page 34
Purl stitch, page 38
Bind off, page 50
Weaving in ends, page 98

SIZE

Approximately 50.5 × 8 ins
(128.5 × 20.5cm)

MATERIALS

Classic Elite La Gran 42g,
#6519 Pink, 4 balls
Size 9 US (5.5mm) knitting needles
or size needed to obtain gauge

GAUGE

16 stitches (sts) and 20 rows = 4 inches
(10cm) in Stockinette stitch
(knit 1 row, purl 1 row)

ABBREVIATIONS

K = knit; RS = right side; P = Purl

INSTRUCTIONS

Cast on 32 stitches.

Work 7 rows in Garter stitch (knit every row).

Row 1: Knit.

Row 2: K3. Purl to last 3 stitches, then K3.

Row 3: As Row 1.

Row 4: As Row 2.

Row 5: As Row 1.

Row 6: As Row 2.

Row 7: As Row 1.

Row 8: Knit.

Repeat Rows 1 to 8 35 more times.

Work 7 rows in Garter stitch (knit every row).

Bind off all stitches.

Tip

You'll need your row counter for this pattern!

PROJECT 3

© Mark Urschel 2009

Checkered Cloth

SKILLS

Cast on, page 32
Knit stitch, page 34
Purl stitch, page 38
Bind off, page 50
Weaving in ends, page 98

SIZE

Approximately 7.25 × 7.25 ins
(18.5 × 18.5cm)

MATERIALS

Lily Sugar'n Cream 2.5oz/70.9g, #10 Yellow, 1 ball
Size 7 US (4.5mm) knitting needles or size needed to obtain gauge

GAUGE

20 stitches (sts) and 26 rows = 4 inches (10cm) in Stockinette stitch (knit 1 row, purl 1 row)

ABBREVIATIONS

RS = right side; K = knit; P = purl

This project makes a great Mother's Day gift!

INSTRUCTIONS

Cast on 36 stitches.

Row 1 (RS): K4. *P4. K4; repeat from * to end of row.

Row 2: P4. *K4. P4; repeat from * to end of row.

Row 3: As Row 1.

Row 4: As Row 2.

Row 5: P4. *K4. P4; repeat from * to end of row.

Row 6: K4. *P4. K4; repeat from * to end of row.

Row 7: As Row 5.

Row 8: As Row 6.

Repeat these 8 rows 5 more times, ending after a Row 8.

Bind off all stitches.

Don't forget to use your row counter!

PROJECT 4

Courtesy of Jennifer Burrell Photography

Striped Hat

SKILLS

Cast on, page 32
Knit stitch, page 34
Purl stitch, page 38
Bind off, page 50
Decreasing stitches, page 63
Weaving in ends, page 98
Sewing seams, page 90

SIZE

Small 15 inches (38cm)
Medium 18.25 inches (46.5cm)
Large 21.5 inches (54.5cm)

MATERIALS

Dale of Norway Free Style (50g)
Small:
MC (Main Color) = #2106 Yellow, 2 balls
Contrast A = #2427 Gold, 2 balls
Medium:
MC (Main Color) = #4114 Pink, 2 balls
Contrast A = #4417 Fushia, 2 balls
Large:
MC (Main Color) = #5444 Periwinkle, 2 balls
Contrast A = #5703 Light Blue, 2 balls
Size 8US (5mm) knitting needles or size needed to obtain gauge

GAUGE

17 stitches and 24 rows = 4 inches (10cm) in Stockinette stitch (knit 1 row, purl 1 row)

ABBREVIATIONS

RS = right side; WS = wrong side; K= knit; P = purl; K2tog = knit 2 stitches together

INSTRUCTIONS

(Bracketed numbers are for sizes Medium and Large.)

With MC, cast on 64 [78-92] stitches.

Work 6 rows of Stockinette stitch (knit 1 row, purl 1 row) in MC.

Work 6 rows of Stockinette stitch in Contrast A.

Repeat last 12 rows until work from rolled edge measures 3 [4-4.5] ins (7.5 [10-11.5] cm), ending with a RS facing for next row.

Decreasing rows:

Row 1: K1. *K2tog. K7 [9-11]; repeat from * to end of row. You'll be down to 57 [71-85] stitches.

Row 2: Purl.

Row 3: K1. *K2tog. K6 [8-10]; repeat from * to end of row. Now you'll have 50 [64-78] stitches.

Row 4: Purl.

Row 5: K1. *K2tog. K5 [7-9]; repeat from * to end of row. Now you'll have 43 [57-71] stitches.

Continue in this manner decreasing 7 stitches evenly across rows until there are 15 stitches remaining.

Bind off the remaining stitches.

Cut yarn, making sure to leave a long tail.

Draw the yarn end through remaining stitch, tighten, and secure. Sew seam, reversing seam at rolled edge.

Courtesy of Jennifer Burrell Photography

PROJECT 5

Courtesy of Jennifer Burrell Photography

Little Sweetheart Purse

SKILLS

Cast on, page 32
Knit stitch, page 34
Purl stitch, page 38
Bind off, page 50
Decreasing stitches, page 63
Reading a chart, page 56
Weaving in ends, page 98
Sewing seams, page 90

SIZE

Approximately 8 × 8 ins (20.5 × 20.5cm)

MATERIALS

S. R. Kertzer's Butterfly Super 3 125g
MC (Main Color) = #3947 Violet, 1 hank
Contrast A = #3459 Peony, 1 hank
Sizes 7 US (4.5mm) and 8 US (5mm) knitting needles or size needed to obtain gauge

GAUGE

18 stitches (sts) and 24 rows = 4 inches (10cm) with larger needles in Stockinette stitch (knit 1 row, purl 1 row)

ABBREVIATIONS

K = knit; P = purl; RS = right side; WS = wrong side

STITCH GLOSSARY

Seed St:
Row 1: *K1. P1; repeat from * to end of row.
Row 2: *P1. K1; repeat from * to end of row.
Repeat these 2 rows.

INSTRUCTIONS

Front and Back

With MC and larger needles, cast on 36 stitches.

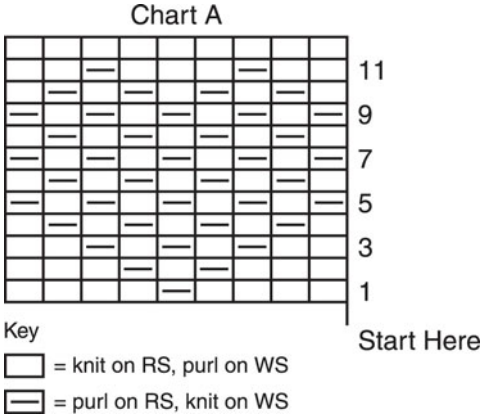
Work in Stockinette stitch (knit 1 row, purl 1 row) until work from beginning measures 6.5 ins (16.5cm), ending with RS facing for next row.

Change to smaller needles and work 1.5 ins (4cm) in Seed stitch, ending with WS facing for next row.

Bind off in Seed stitch.

Front piece of bag is complete. Repeat steps above to make another, identical piece for back piece of bag.

Pocket



With A and larger needles, cast on 17 stitches.

Work 6 rows in Stockinette stitch (knit 1 row, purl 1 row), ending with RS facing for next row.

Next row: K4. Work Row 1 of Chart A. K4.

Next row: P4. Work Row 2 of Chart A. P4.

Chart A is now in position. Continue to end of Chart A, reading rows from right to left on RS rows and left to right on WS rows.

Work 2 rows in Stockinette stitch (knit 1 row, purl 1 row). Change to smaller needles and work 3 rows in Seed stitch.

Bind off in Seed stitch.

Strap

With A and smaller needles, cast on 10 stitches.

Work in Seed stitch until strap measures 46 ins (117cm).

Bind off all stitches.

Finishing

Sew pocket to front piece.

Sew the ends of the strap together and then sew the strap to 3 sides of the front piece of the purse, placing the center seam at center bottom of purse.

Sew the back piece of the purse to the strap, same as with front piece.

© Mark Urschel 2009

PROJECT 6

Decorative Pillow

SKILLS

Cast on, page 32
Knit stitch, page 34
Purl stitch, page 38
Bind off, page 50
Decreasing stitches, page 63
Slip a stitch, page 65
Weaving in ends, page 98
Sewing seams with the whip stitch, page 96
Making a tassel, page 72

SIZE

Approximately 14 inches (35.5cm) square

MATERIALS

Classic Elite Paintbox 3.5oz/100g, #6820 Cerulean Blue, 3 balls
Pillow form 14 × 14 ins (35.5 × 35.5cm).
Size 11 US (8mm) knitting needles or size needed to obtain gauge

GAUGE

15 stitches (sts) and 21 rows = 4 inches (10cm) in pattern

ABBREVIATIONS

RS = right side; K = knit; Sl1 = slip one stitch

INSTRUCTIONS

Cast on 51 stitches.

Row 1 (RS): Knit.

Row 2: Knit.

Row 3: K1. *Sl1 purlwise. K1; repeat from * to end of row.

Row 4: K1. *Move yarn to front of work. Sl1 purlwise. Move yarn to back of work. K1; repeat from * to end of row.

Row 5: As Row 1.

Row 6: As Row 1.

Row 7: K2. *Sl1 purlwise. K1; repeat from * to last st, K1.

Row 8: K2. *Move yarn to front of work. Sl1 purlwise. Move yarn to back of work. K1; repeat from * to last st, K1.

These 8 rows form the pattern.

Continue in pattern until work from beginning measures 28 inches (71cm).

Bind off all stitches.

Finishing

Fold material in half and sew two sides together using whip stitch. Insert pillow form. Sew remaining side.

Tassel (Make 4)

Cut a rectangle 6.5 ins (16.5cm) long out of cardboard. Wind yarn around rectangle 28 times and then cut yarn from ball. Attach tassel to each pillow corner.

© Mark Urschel 2009

PROJECT 7

Cell Phone Cozy

SKILLS

Cast on, page 32
Knit stitch, page 34
Purl stitch, page 38
Bind off, page 50
Increasing stitches, page 59
Yarn around needle, page 61
Decreasing stitches, page 63
Slip a stitch, page 65
Making a buttonhole, page 68
Weaving in ends, page 98
Sewing seams, page 90

MATERIALS

Paton's Classic Merino Wool 3.5oz/100g, #233 Blush, 1 ball
Size 7 US (4.5mm) knitting needles or size needed to obtain gauge
One button

GAUGE

20 stitches (sts) and 26 rows = 4 inches (10cm) in Stockinette stitch (knit 1 row, purl 1 row)

ABBREVIATIONS

RS = right side; WS = wrong side; P = purl; K = knit; Sl1 = slip 1 stitch; psso = pass slipped stitch over; yrn = yarn round needle; P2tog = purl 2 stitches together.

INSTRUCTIONS

Cast on 22 stitches.

Row 1 (RS): P2. *Sl1. K2. psso. P2; repeat from * to end of row.

Row 2: K2. *P1. yrn. P1. K2; repeat from * to end of row.

Row 3: P2. *K3. P2; repeat from * to end of row.

Row 4: K2. *P3. K2; repeat from * to end of row.

These 4 rows form pattern.

Continue in pattern until work from beginning measures 11 inches (28cm), ending with WS facing for next row.

Tip

You may lengthen according to the size of your cell phone.

Antenna hole (Optional)

Bind off 6 stitches. There will be 16 stitches.

Work in pattern to end of row. Work 3 more rows in pattern.

Cast on 6 sts. There will now be 22 stitches again.

Continue in pattern until work from beginning measures 13.75 ins (35cm) ending with Row 3 of pattern facing for next row.

Make Buttonhole

Row 1 (RS): Work in pattern for the first 10 stitches. Bind off 2 stitches. Work in pattern to end of row.

Next row: Work Row 4 of pattern, casting on 2 stitches over the bound off stitches in the previous row. Work in pattern to end of row.

Next row: (P2tog. Sl1. K2. psso) two times. P2tog. (Sl1. K2. psso. P2tog.) two times. There will be 17 stitches remaining.

Knit 2 rows.

Bind off all stitches knitwise on WS.

Fold bottom edge up to where first bind off is and sew side seams.

Sew on button.

© Mark Urschel 2008

Glossary

B

Back loop
Of the two horizontal loops of a crochet stitch, the one that is farthest away from you when you are working on a piece.

Backstitch
A strong seaming stitch that is used to sew pieces together.

Binding off
A method of securing the stitches on a completed knitted piece to keep them from unraveling. Also known as casting off.

Blocking
A procedure involving dampening and then shaping a piece to help even out stitches, flatten curling edges, and ensure the piece has the correct dimensions.

C

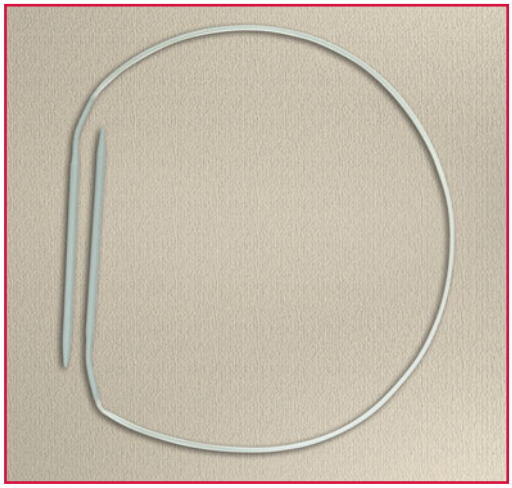
Cable
A group of stitches that cross in front or behind another group of stitches to form appealing designs in your fabric.

Cable needle
A small, double-pointed needle that is often curved. You use a cable needle to temporarily hold stitches when creating a cable pattern.

Casting off
See Binding off.

Casting on
Adding the first row of stitches to your knitting needle.

Circular needle
A knitting needle that consists of a pair of short, straight needles attached by a flexible cord. Circular needles allow you to knit in a circle, which is referred to as knitting in the round or circular knitting.



Continental knitting
A style of knitting in which you hold the yarn in your left hand.

D

Decrease
Performing a decrease reduces the number of stitches in your piece, making your work narrower.

Double-pointed needle
Straight needles that have a point at each end. These needles are useful for knitting small tubular items, such as socks.

Dropped stitch
A stitch that has slipped off the end of your needle and has not been knitted or purled.

Dye lot number
Yarn is dyed in specific lots and each lot is assigned a dye lot number. Balls of yarn that have the same dye lot number will be the identical shade.

E

English knitting
A style of knitting in which you hold the yarn in your right hand.

Eyelet
A small, decorative hole. Also a type of lace fabric that features decorative holes.

F

Flat knitting
A common knitting method involving working on the right side of the knitted fabric, then turning the piece over and working on the wrong side.

Fully fashioned shaping
To shape a knitted piece by placing decreases or increases in a visible location, such as one or two stitches from an edge.

G

Garter stitch
A ridged fabric formed when all the stitches are either knit on every row or purled on every row of flat knitting. A knitted fabric created in garter stitch looks exactly the same on the front and back.

Gauge
The number of stitches and rows you should have in a square of knitted or crocheted fabric to ensure your finished project will be the correct size. Also called tension.

Gauge swatch
A piece of knitted or crocheted fabric that allows you to determine if you are producing the correct number of stitches and rows per inch for a project.

H

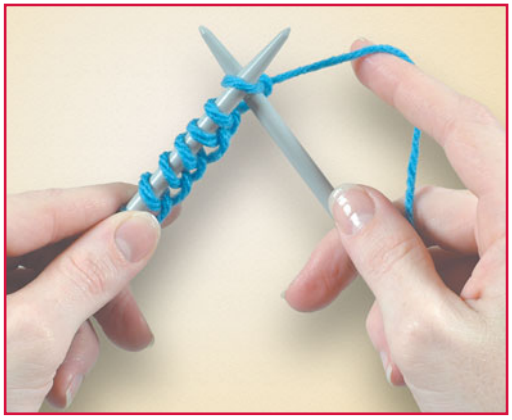
Hank
A loosely twisted coil of yarn. You must wind hanks into balls before working with the yarn.

I

Increase
Performing an increase adds to the number of stitches in your piece, making your work wider.

K

Knitting
Performing the basic knit stitch. Also generally refers to creating a knitted piece.



Knitting in the round
Refers to knitting tubular items, such as socks or sweater bodies.

Knitwise
Inserting the right needle into the front of a stitch from left to right. This is the same way you insert the needle when you perform the knit stitch.

L

Live stitches
Stitches that are not yet bound off on a piece of knitted fabric.

M

Mattress stitch
A seaming method that produces a flexible, almost undetectable seam. Also called the invisible seam.

N

Needle gauge
A device you can use to determine the size of needles that are not labeled.

P

Pattern
A set of instructions for creating a knitted or crocheted project.

Point protector
A small rubber cap you put on the pointed end of a needle to help keep the stitches from falling off when you put away or transport your work.

Purling
Performing the basic purl stitch.

Purlwise
Inserting the right needle into the front of a stitch from right to left. This is the same way you insert the needle when you perform the purl stitch.

R

Reverse stockinette stitch
A fabric formed by alternating between a row of purl stitches and a row of knit stitches. The fabric is bumpy (purl stitches) on the right side and smooth (knit stitches) on the wrong side.

Ribbing
A stretchy fabric that is made by combining knit and purl stitches in the same row to create vertical ridges.

Right side
The side of your fabric that will show outside when your project is complete.

Ripping out stitches
Refers to unraveling your stitches to return to a location in your knitting where you made a mistake. You can then fix the mistake and continue knitting.

Row counter
A device you can place on the end of your needles to keep track of how many rows you have completed.

S

Seaming
Sewing your finished knitted or crocheted pieces together to complete your project. Also called sewing seams.

Selvedge stitch
A stitch used to form a border around a knitted piece.

Single-pointed needle
A straight needle with a point at one end for knitting and a knob at the other end to keep the stitches from falling off the needle. Single-pointed needles are ideal for flat knitting.

Skein
An oblong-shaped ball of yarn.

Slip knot
A knot that makes a loop you can use as the starting point for your crochet or knitting project. In knitting, the slip knot serves as your first stitch. In crochet, the slip knot is not counted as a stitch.

Slip stitch
In knitting, a stitch that is moved from one needle to the other needle without knitting or purling the stitch. In crochet, the shortest stitch that can be used to join seams, create firm edges or carry yarn across stitches.

Stash
An assortment of yarns a knitter stores with the intention of using them at some future time.

Stitch
One of a series of loops that hold together to form a piece of fabric. One horizontal line of stitches is called a row of stitches.

Stitch holder
An accessory used to temporarily hold stitches you are not working with to prevent them from unraveling.

Stitch marker
A small circular item used to leave a visual reminder of where pattern changes occur and to maintain your place in knitting.

Stockinette stitch
A fabric formed by alternating between a row of knit stitches and a row of purl stitches. The fabric is smooth (knit stitches) on the right side and bumpy (purl stitches) on the wrong side. Also called stocking stitch.

T

Tail
A strand of yarn that is left over when you begin a piece, finish a piece, or start a new ball of yarn.

Tapestry needle
Similar to a large sewing needle that has a dull tip. A tapestry needle is often used to sew seams and weave in yarn ends. Also known as sewing, darning, and yarn needle.

W

Weaving
A method of securing yarn that is being carried across four or more stitches so you can make a color change. Also refers to working in a strand of yarn that is left over when you add stitches, finish stitches, or start a new ball of yarn.

Whip stitch
A seaming stitch that produces a strong, but somewhat bulky seam. Also called overcasting.

Work even
Work in the established pattern without increasing or decreasing stitches. Also called work straight.

Wrong side
The part of a fabric that will face inside when your project is complete.

Y

Yarn end
See tail.

Yarn over
In knitting, a method of increasing stitches that results in a small, decorative hole being formed in your work. In crochet, the basic movement used to create stitches.

Common Abbreviations

alt	alternate or alternating
approx	approximately
beg	beginning
bet	between
bk lp	back loop
blo	back loop only
BO	bind off
CC	contrast color
cm	centimeter
CO	cast on
col	color
cont	continue
dec	decrease
g	gram
in(s)	inch(es)
inc	increase
K	knit
k1b	knit one stitch in the row below or knit one stitch through the back loop
K1tbl	knit one stitch through the back loop
K2tog	knit two stitches together
K2tog tbl	knit two stitches together through back loop
kfb	knit into front and back of next stitch
kwise	knitwise
MB	make a bobble
MC	main color
mm	millimeter
oz	ounce
P	purl
P1b	purl one stitch through back loop
p2sso	pass 2 slipped stitches over
P2tog	purl two stitches together
P2tog tbl	purl two stitches together through back loop
pat	pattern
psso	pass slipped stitch over
pwise	purlwise
rem	remaining
rep	repeat
RH	right hand
rib	work in ribbing
rnd	work in rounds
RS	right side
RT	right twist
skp	slip one stitch, knit one stitch, pass slipped stitch over
skpo	slip one stitch, knit one stitch, pass slipped stitch over
sl	slip
sl st	slip stitch
Sl1	slip one stitch
sl1 k1	slip one stitch, knit one stitch, pass slipped stitch over
sl1 k2tog	slip one stitch, knit two stitches together, pass slipped stitch over
Sl1K	slip one stitch knitwise
Sl1P	slip one stitch purlwise
Sl1PB	slip slipped stitch purlwise back to left hand needle
sl2tog k1	slip two stitches together, knit one stitch, pass the two slipped stitches over
st(s)	stitch(es)
St st	Stockinette stitch
tog	together
WS	wrong side
yf	yarn forward
yfrn	yarn forward round needle
yfwd	yarn forward
yo	yarn over
yon	yarn over needle

INDEX

A

abbreviations
common abbreviations, list of, 126–129
in pattern instructions, 55
across work, weaving yarn ends, 99
acrylic yarn, 9
alpaca fibers, 7
aluminum needles, 17
angora fibers, 7
animal fibers, 4, 6
asterisk (*) symbol, 55

B

Baa Baa Knits & Needleworks, 23
back of stitch, inserting needle, 27
backstitch, joining pieces with, 93–95
balls of yarn, 3
new ball, starting, 49
bamboo needles, 17
bar increase, 58–59
basketweave, 45
binding off, 50–51
bleaching alpaca fibers, 7
blocking, 85–89
steam blocking, 88–89
wet blocking, 86–87
borders
ribbing for, 46–48
yarn over (YO) for, 62
bouclé yarn, 10
brackets () or [], 55
brand name of yarn, 14
broken 2 × 2 rib, 48
bulky weight, 11
buttonholes, making, 68–69

C

care instructions for yarn, 14
caring for knitwear, 15–16
cashmere fibers, 7
casting off, 50–51
casting on, 32–33
cell phone cozy, 122–125
checkered cloth, 108–109
chenille yarn, 10
ChicKnits, 23
choosing yarn, 12
circular needles, 19
Colorfast treatment, 14
colors
in knitting charts, 56–57
name/number of yarn, 14
Continental style, 28, 30, 34
knit stitch in, 36–37
purl stitch in, 40–41
controlling tension on yarn, 28
cotton candy scarf, 106–107
cotton fibers, 4, 5
craft stores, 12
Craft Yarn Council of America, 23
crochet hooks, 21
for dropped stitch, 79
cuffs, ribbing for, 46–48

D

decorative pillow, 118–121
decreasing
left-slanting decrease, making, 64
slip one, knit one, pass slipped stitch over (SKP or skpo), 66
with slip slip knit technique, 65
double asterisks (**), 55
double seed stitch, 44
dropped stitch
row below, picking up in, 77–78
several rows below, picking up, 79–80
dye lot number of yarn, 14
dye-lots for yarn, 12

E

eBay, yarns on, 12
edges, ribbing for, 46–48
Egyptian cotton, 5
ends of yarn, weaving in, 98–99

English style, 28, 29
knit stitch in, 34–35
purl stitch in, 38–39
extra-bulky weight, 11

F

fiber content of yarn, 14
fingering weight, 11
fleece, 6
fringe, creating, 70–71
front of stitch, inserting needle, 27

G

garter stitch, 42
pattern, creating, 43
gauge
on label, 14
needle gauges, 20
patterns stating, 54
substituting, 13
swatch, 52–53
gauge swatch, 52–53
glossary, 126–129
goat fibers, 6
cashmere fibers, 7

H

hand-washing knitwear, 15
hanks of yarn, 3–4
hats
ribby scarf and hat project, 102–103
striped hat, 110–113
hemp fibers, 4, 6
holding yarn and needles, 28–30
horizontal buttonhole, creating, 68

I

increasing, 58–62
bar increase, 58–59
yarn forward (YF or YFWD), 61
yarn over needle (YON), 62
yarn over (YO), 61
yarn round needle (YFRN or YRN), 62
Internet
resources, 23
yarn, buying, 12
Interweave Knits Magazine, 23
invisible seam, joining pieces with, 90–92
ironing
and steam blocking, 88
synthetic fibers, 9

J

joining knitted pieces
with backstitch, 93–95
with mattress stitch, 90–92
with whip stitch, 96–97

K

The KnitList, 23
Knit 'N Style Magazine, 23
knit 1 purl 1 rib, 48
knit 2 purl 5 rib, 48
knit stitch, 34–37
slipping a stitch knitwise, 67
knitting charts, reading, 56–57
Knitting Now, 23
knitting two stitches together (k2tog), 63
knitting two stitches together through back loop (k2tog tbl), 64
knitting worsted weight, 11
knitwise
insertion of needle, 27
slipping a stitch knitwise, 67

L

labels for yarn
care, information on, 15
decoding, 14
left-handed people, knitting style for, 37
left-slanting decrease, making, 64
length of yarn, 14
linen yarns, 5
little sweetheart purse, 114–117
lots, yarn dyed in, 12

M

man-made fibers, 9–10
manufacturers of yarn, 14
materials, patterns stating, 54
mattress stitch, joining pieces with, 90–92
merino wool, 6
metallic fibers, 10
mistakes, 76. *See also* dropped stitch; ripping out stitches
mistake stitch rib, 48
moss stitch, 44
moth larvae, 6

N

natural fibers, 4
neckbands, ribbing for, 46–48
needles, 17, 18. *See also* tapestry needles
- circular needles, 19
- gauge, 20
- holding, 28–30
- inserting, 27
- for ribbing, 46
- single-pointed needles, 19
- tapestry needles, 22

needle size, 18
- on label, 14
- substituting yarn and, 13

new ball of yarn, starting, 49
novelty yarns, 10
nylon yarn, 9

P

patterns
- gauge swatch, 52–53
- reading patterns, 54–55

picking up. *See* dropped stitch
pilling and acrylic yarn, 9
pillow, decorative, 118–121
Pima cotton, 5
plant fibers, 4, 5
plastic needles, 17
plied yarn, 4
- label information, 14

point protectors, 22
pompoms, creating, 74–75
project bags, 22
projects
- cell phone cozy, 122–125
- checkered cloth, 108–109
- cotton candy scarf, 106–107
- little sweetheart purse, 114–117
- pillow, decorative, 118–121
- ribby scarf and hat, 102–103
- striped hat, 110–113

Pure New wool, 6
purl stitch, 38–41
- bar increase on purl side, 60
- dropped stitch, picking up, 80
- knitting two stitches together (k2tog), 63
- slipping a stitch purlwise, 67

purlwise
- insertion of needle, 27
- slipping a stitch purlwise, 67

purse project, 114–117

Q

quality of yarn, 12

R

rabbit fibers, 4, 6
- angora fibers, 7

reading
- knitting charts, 56–57
- patterns, 54–55

The Red Sweater, 23
ribbing pattern, 46–48
- variations for, 47

ribby scarf and hat project, 102–103
right side, 26, 42, 43
- for pompoms, 75
- for tassels, 73

ripping out stitches, 81–82
- row by row, 82–83
- stitch by stitch, 81

rows, 25
- counters, 21

S

safety pins, 21
scarves
cotton candy scarf, 106–107
ribby scarf and hat project, 102–103
schematics in patterns, 55
scissors, 20
Sea Island cotton, 5
seed stitch, 44
double seed stitch, 44
simple seed stitch, 45
sewing knitted pieces. *See* joining knitted pieces
shaping, 58
in knitting charts, 57
sheep fibers, 4, 6
shrinkage, protecting from, 15
sides, waving yarn ends into, 98
silk fibers, 8
simple seed stitch, 45
single-pointed needles, 19
sizes. *See also* needle size
patterns stating, 54
skeins of yarn, 3
slip knots, making, ***31***
slip one, knit one, pass slipped stitch over (SKP or skpo), 66
slipping a stitch (sl st), 67
slip slip knit (ssk), 65
soaking knitwear, 15
special treatments for yarn, 14
spinning yarn, 4
sport weight, 11
starting new ball of yarn, 49
steam blocking, 88–89
stitches, 25
backstitch, joining pieces with, 93–95
basketweave, 45
binding off, 50–51
casting on (CO), 32–33
double seed stitch, 44
garter stitch, 42
gauge swatch, 52–53
mattress stitch, joining pieces with, 90–92
moss stitch, 44
purl stitch, 38–41
ripping out stitches, 81–82
seed stitch, 44
simple seed stitch, 45
slip knots, making, 31
stockinette stitch, 42, 43
whip stitch, joining pieces with, 96–97
stitch glossary, 54
stitch holders, 20
stitch markers, 21
stockinette stitch, 42, 43
stores for buying yarn, 12
straight pins, 22
stripes
creating, 49
hat project, 110–113
substituting yarn, 13
Superwash treatment, 14
symbols
in knitting charts, 57
pattern symbols, 55
for washing knitwear, 16
synthetic fibers, 4, 9–10

T

tail of yarn, 25
tape measures, 20
tapestry needles, 22
tassels, creating, 72–73
tassel makers, 73
tassels, creating, 72–73
telephone cozy, 122–125
tension
and casting on (CO), 33
controlling tension on yarn, 28
thickness of yarn, 14
three-ply yarn, 4
tools. *See also* crochet hooks; needles; tapestry needles
needle gauges, 20
point protectors, 22
project bags, 22
row counters, 21
safety pins, 21

scissors, 20
stitch holders, 20
stitch markers, 21
straight pins, 22
tape measures, 20
tassel makers, 73
two-ply yarn, 4
two stitches together, knitting (k2tog), 63
two stitches together through back loop, knitting (k2tog tbl), 64

V

variegated yarn, 105
Vogue Knitting International, 23

W

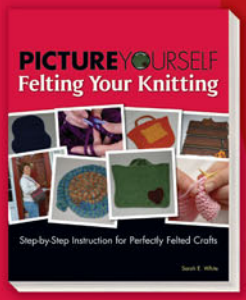
washing knitwear, 15–16
washing machines, using, 15
weaving in yarn ends, 98–99
weights of yarn, 11
on label, 14
wet blocking, 86–87
whip stitch, joining pieces with, 96–97
wooden needles, 17
wool fibers, 6
wrong side, 26, 42, 43
for pompoms, 75
for tassels, 73

Y

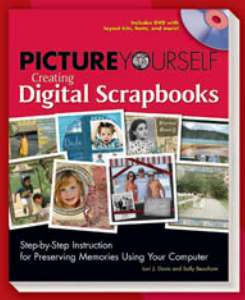
yarn, 3–10. *See also* balls of yarn; gauge; labels for yarn; weights of yarn
for backstitch, 93
choosing, 12
controlling tension on, 28
fibers for, 4–10
holding, 28–30
novelty yarns, 10
for pompons, 74
quality of, 12
slip knots, making, 31
sources for buying, 12
for steam blocking, 88
substituting, 13
tail of yarn, 25
variegated yarn, 105
weaving in yarn ends, 98–99
for whip stitch, 96–97
yarn forward (YF or YFWD), 61
yarn over needle (YON), 62
yarn over (YO), 61
for borders, 62
yarn round needle (YFRN or YRN), 62

This page intentionally left blank

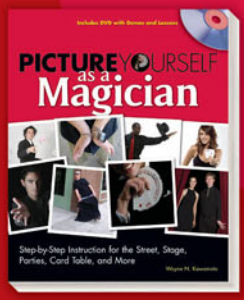
What do you PICTUREYOURSELF Learning?



Picture Yourself Felting Your Knitting
Sarah E. White
1-59863-485-2 ■ U.S. $24.99

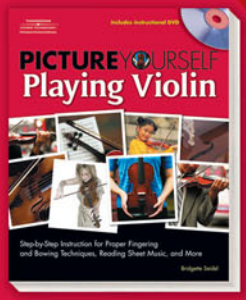


Picture Yourself Creating Digital Scrapbooks
Lori J. Davis and Sally Beacham
1-59863-488-7 ■ U.S. $29.99



Picture Yourself as a Magician
Wayne N. Kawamoto
1-59863-499-2 ■ U.S. $29.99

Picture Yourself Learning American Sign Language, Level 1
Janna M. Sweenie and David W. Boles
1-59863-516-6 ■ U.S. $34.99



Picture Yourself Playing Violin
Bridgette Seidel
1-59863-448-8 ■ U.S. $34.99

Picture Yourself Planning Your Perfect Wedding
Sandy Doell
1-59863-439-9 ■ U.S. $19.99

Picture Yourself Decorating Cakes
Sandy Doell and Linda Shonk
1-59863-440-2 ■ U.S. $24.99

Also Available

Picture Yourself Creating Metal Clay Jewelry
1-59863-506-9 ■ U.S. $29.99

Picture Yourself Dancing
1-59863-246-9 ■ U.S. $34.99

Picture Yourself Learning Mac OS X 10.5 Leopard
1-59863-514-X ■ U.S. $24.99

Picture Yourself Creating Video Games
1-59863-551-4 ■ U.S. $34.99

Picture Yourself Directing a Movie
1-59863-489-5 ■ U.S. $29.99

Picture Yourself Learning Corel Paint Shop Pro Photo X2
1-59863-425-9 ■ U.S. $29.99

Picture Yourself Creating with Photoshop® Elements 5.0
1-59863-350-3 ■ U.S. $34.99

Picture Yourself Drumming
1-59863-330-9 ■ U.S. $34.99

Picture Yourself Making Jewelry and Beading
1-59863-450-X ■ U.S. $19.99

COURSE TECHNOLOGY
CENGAGE Learning™
Professional • Technical • Reference

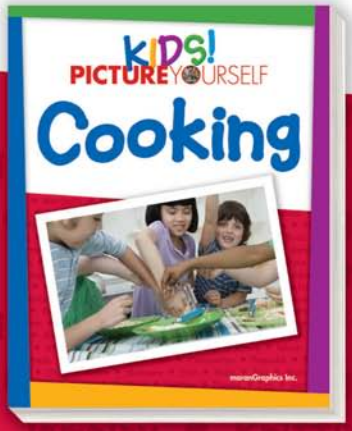
Visit us at www.courseptr.com
To order: 1.800.354.9706

The Kids! Picture Yourself Series

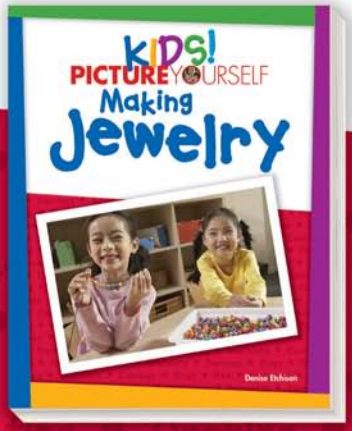
Written especially for kids ages 7–12

A colorful, kid-friendly layout and step-by-step directions

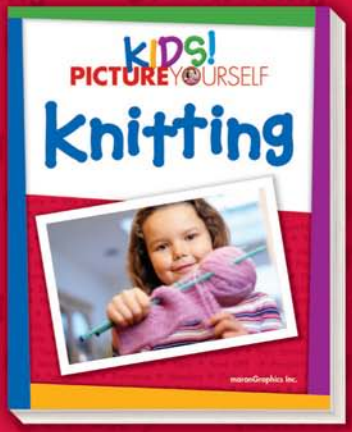
Projects or recipes help kids practice their new skills



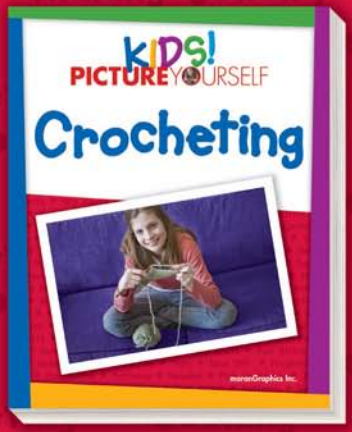
1-59863-525-5 • $12.99



1-59863-526-3 • $12.99



1-59863-523-9 • $12.99



1-59863-555-7 • $12.99

COURSE TECHNOLOGY
CENGAGE Learning
Professional • Technical • Reference

Visit us at www.courseptr.com • To order: 1.800.354.9706